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The Times university
results
service, page 17

£2 a week company car tax

A new tax on drivers receiving free petrol for private motoring in company cars will work out at little more than the cost of a gallon a week.

Scale charges just published by the Inland Revenue show that, from next April, the average company car driver with a Corvair-type model will be deemed to receive a free petrol cash benefit of £360 a year (£2.07 a week for the basic rate taxpayer).

Those with bigger cars will, on basic tax rate, have to pay £311 a week. The Inland Revenue said about 750,000 drivers would be affected.

BP and Mobil raise prices

BP and Mobil have followed Esso's lead and increased the prices of all petrol grades. If retailers pass on the full increase to motorists, the price at the pumps will go up by 8p, putting four-star petrol at £1.64 a gallon. Page 20

Mellish will not seek reelection

Mr Robert Mellish, Labour MP for Southwark, Bermondsey, will not stand at the next general election. He had already said he might resign in the autumn if his work as vice-chairman of the Docklands Urban Development Corporation interfered with his work as an MP. Page 2

Channel tunnel cost disputed

A combined bridge and tunnel across the Channel would cost between £10,000m and £11,000m, not £3,800m as forecast by British Steel, Sir David Nicholson, chairman of the rival European Channel Tunnel Group, said yesterday. Page 3

Archbishop's royal advice

Sex, marriage and bringing up children were some of the topics Dr Robert Runcie discussed when he met the Prince of Wales and Lady Diana Spencer, he revealed. The Archbishop of Canterbury appealed to married couples not to treat their wedding, on July 29, as a spectacle. Page 3

US visas for Springboks

Visas for the Springbok rugby team have been authorized by the United States. The South Africans are due to play three games there after their controversial New Zealand tour starting on Sunday. They had their final practice in Cape Town yesterday. Page 7

Iran executes businessmen

For the first time in the current Iranian drive against opponents of the Islamic Government, businessmen have been sent to the firing squad. A prominent industrialist and supporter of former President Bani-Sadr, was one of 28 people executed yesterday. Page 5

Vatican deficit put at £17m

The Vatican's budget appears to be in perilous state. When the Cardinals met in November 1979 the deficit was officially put at £8m. But when the Pope's new Council of Cardinals met yesterday to consider the Vatican's ailing finances, unofficial estimates put its deficit at £17m. Page 6

Output drops 0.8 pc in May

Industrial output in May was 0.8 per cent below the April level and 6 per cent below the May 1980 level. Manufacturing output fell even more: it was 10 per cent below last year's level. If North Sea oil and gas are excluded, output is now 11 per cent lower than in 1975. Page 19

Full backing for gas strike

Management and union leaders in British Gas confirmed that most of the corporation's 106,000 manual and white collar workers had taken part in an official 24-hour strike against Government plans to sell off gas showrooms. Some areas were left without a normal emergency service. Page 4

Prime Minister and Whitelaw on measures to deal with disorders

Riot offenders may go into Army camps

By George Clark, Political Correspondent

Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, told a crowded meeting of Conservative MPs at the Commons last night that the Government is ready to "open up Army camps as temporary detention centres" to house those who are convicted of crime in the recent rioting in Britain's cities.

The prisons had a population of 44,500 and were overcrowded, he said. With several hundreds likely to be sentenced by the courts this week, it was necessary for him to ensure that there would be secure detention and prison centres to which they could be sent.

Under pressure from the backbenchers to support the police in more effective action against the rioters, Mr Whitelaw said that he had noted the effectiveness of the Manchester police force and praised the way in which Mr James Anderson, the Chief Constable, had deployed his forces.

Mr Edward Gardner, MP for South Fylde, and chairman of the Conservative Home Affairs Committee, which arranged the meeting, said: "Mr Whitelaw thought there ought now to be aggressive action to ensure that people from the streets and the police ought to move forward offensively."

He was determined to give the police all the equipment that they needed and said he was arranging for the equipment to go direct from the manufacturers to the police forces.

Mr Whitelaw referred to the tests being carried out with two types of water cannon. The Home Secretary said that the RUC, who refused to use any longer. The other, smaller, could be used with eyes so that the rioters could be identified. It was also more manoeuvrable.

The Home Secretary said that the Home Office was aware of the fact that the rioters were using equipment that they had made available. Mr Gardner said:

"He is making efforts to divert police from various parts of the country to the areas where they are required to deal with the trouble. It is the first time this has been done in the history of the police force in the United Kingdom."

Thatcher sets priority for police protection

From Nicholas Timmins, Liverpool

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, yesterday promised strong support for the police, more riot equipment to hold back a review of the Public Order Act and the possible restoration of a Riot Act, but said there were no instant solutions to the riots of Toxteth, Moss Side and Brixton.

In a five-hour visit to Liverpool, the timing of which was kept secret, she received a hostile reception from a crowd of several hundred gathered outside the town hall.

Two tomatoes were thrown, and police, arms linked, struggled to hold back a section of the crowd which booed and jeered her as she left.

During three hours of talks with council, community and church leaders she was warned by community representatives that the riots were a breakdown of law unless there was a change in the way in which areas like Toxteth were policed.

"To them and at a press conference afterwards she made a strong appeal for local and national support for the police and communities and the police. It was a time, she said, for reconciliation not dissension but it was of paramount importance that the law was upheld."

Looking ahead to the next 10 days had been the most worrying of her administration. Mrs Thatcher said: "Protection of the police must come first."

"The law must be upheld. Whatever measure there is we must try and get rid of it. That is a two-way business. There is no future for any society unless the law is upheld totally impartially."

She said she had been appalled at the past week's scene but denied there was a risk of a complete breakdown of law and order.

ON OTHER PAGES

Court hearings
New riot Act considered
The community police
Leading article
Photograph

"All difficulties of enforcement, cooperation, will be swept away. In answer to the question, he said, he was prepared to see that he gets the fullest police cooperation to deal with the present difficulties."

"He also said that a national reporting centre had been set up at Scotland Yard."

"He was anxious that there should be the earliest trial of those brought before the magistrates."

Mr Gardner explained that when he announced the use of Army camps, Mr Whitelaw said they would contain those who were convicted of serious offences.

Several backbenchers wanted a revised Riot Act to be introduced quickly. Mr Gardner said: "Mr Whitelaw was not certain whether such an Act was something which ought to be introduced as emergency legislation."

He pointed out its difficulties and its advantages and its dangers.

"If Parliament were to put through quick legislation one could be sure that it was defective."

The views of the backbenchers, as expressed in speeches, were seen in favour of a new Act, and eight against. Mr John Wheeler, MP for City of Westminster, Paddington, an officer of the constabulary, said Mr Whitelaw, "by saying 'legislation' was going to be a very French-style riot squad over here."

Mr Whitelaw said there was disagreement among chief constables about the desirability of using water cannon and armoured vehicles.

"These things should never have happened", she said, but we are getting new ways of dealing with a new situation. The police must be given whatever equipment they needed. That was vital to the police and the community."

But after that solutions must come from within the community as well as with help from outside. The measures which she acknowledged existed must be overcome.

She wanted more police contact with schools. "It is important for children at a young age to look upon a policeman as a friend. However, there were no panaceas. "If you are going to look for new recipes and instant solutions you are on the wrong track. We have to try to understand the feelings here."

More jobs were needed and efforts were being made to create them, but she took time. "I do not think you will explain away the levels of unemployment," she said.

Mrs Thatcher's day began at 6am with an unannounced high-speed drive to Liverpool. She arrived just after 8.30 for a 40 minute tour of the riot-torn parts of Toxteth before a meeting with Mr Kenneth Oxford, Merseyside's Chief Constable.

At the time, Mrs Thatcher said, she was "in a state of mind to be angry". She said she was "in a state of mind to be angry". She said she was "in a state of mind to be angry".

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Yang De Zhi, chief of general staff People's Liberation Army of China, reviews a guard of honour by the Irish Guards as he arrives at the Defence Ministry to meet Mr John Nott.

Labour puts the heavy guns into Warrington

From Frank Johnson, Warrington

Labour last night trained heavy artillery, from the platform of Warrington's largest hall, on a town that had already been heavily shelled as the by-election campaign entered its final week.

The large audience of about 700—which seemed on the face of it to be mainly made up of trade union activists—were not typical Warringtonians, since they were excited about the by-election. Their more typical kin have tended to adopt a more stoical attitude the last few weeks, apathy having traditionally much support in the area.

Also, the meeting's atmosphere was rather festive. The speakers included Mr Clive Jenkins, followed by Mr Eric Heffer, Mr Michael Foot, the party leader, to provide the moderation. The result was the most impassioned meeting of the campaign.

Mr Roy Jenkins had attracted just as large audiences of Social Democrats, but their moderate philosophy precludes them from getting too enraged. The Labour candidate, Mr Stanley Sorell, is a maverick without a doubt.

Unlike most of the people out in the town, last night's audience was capable of getting angry. As Mr Clive Jenkins pointed out, the lack of exchange controls, meaning that money was going from this country and into Japanese equities.

Showing even more of a minority taste, they applauded vigorously when Mr Jenkins promised that the next Labour government would set up national planning colleges to train the managers who would run the new Labour Britain.

Promising a completely new approach to the economy, Mr Jenkins said: "When Michael comes back from the Palace, he will have planned what we have to do." The Michael here referred to, Mr Foot, registered neither confirmation nor denial of this.

But if he did have a plan, nobody seemed to have told him about it yet. For he delivered one of his stream-of-consciousness speeches without notes. He did not seem to have a plan of his speech, let alone of the entire economy. But it was not the worst speech for that.

"The age of chivalry is ended, it seems," he said, claiming that the Labour government would set up national planning colleges to train the managers who would run the new Labour Britain.

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Reagan drops Bush from Ottawa summit team

From Nicholas Ashford and Frank Vogl, Washington, July 13

President Reagan has shifted the task of preparing the United States position at next week's summit conference in Ottawa away from Vice-President George Bush to his own White House staff in a move widely interpreted here as a sign of concern at the handling of the preparations to date.

The President's advisers are expecting some of the foreign heads of government at the meeting to be critical of high American interest rates and the Administration will be firmly defending its economic policies at the summit.

Mr Michael Deaver, the White House deputy chief of staff, has now taken over preparations for the meeting, officials said today. The leaders of the United States, Britain, France, West Germany, Italy, Canada and Japan are holding their two-day conference in Ottawa on July 20.

Administration officials tried to play down suggestions that the move was the result of dissatisfaction with Mr Bush's handling of the summit preparations to date. However, sources quoted today by the Washington Post said this was not the case.

There was concern about a lack of detail and specificity in the briefing papers for the summit which had been prepared by Mr Bush's office, and at the fact that these papers were still not in adequate shape even though the summit was less than a week away, the Post's report said.

Mr Bush's appointment as summit coordinator last March was also the result of White House dissatisfaction with the way initial preparations had been conducted. This had been the responsibility of Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, but heads of other government departments complained they had not been adequately consulted.

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A special Ottawa summit task force was set up with Mr Bush as chairman. But this task force never met because, it was explained, Mr Bush intended to use it only in cases of internal conflict over policy, and such conflicts never arose.

Most of the spadework for the conference has been handled by two senior State Department officials, Mr Myer Rashid, under-secretary of state for economic affairs, and Mr Robert Hormatz, who chairs the interdepartmental group responsible for planning the summit. The two men's positions have not been changed.

Mr Donald Reagan, the Secretary of the Treasury, said at a press conference that it was difficult to make the case that the chief disturbances in Britain are due to Mr Thatcher's economic policies. He said that the cause of the disturbances was sociological and that it needs to be recalled that the riots in London began in the 1980s, took place when the economy was enjoying a boom.

The Secretary admitted that some foreign leaders may criticize America at the Ottawa conference, but he said that the United States would be in a position to counter such criticism.

Mr Reagan said that the White House recognized that other nations may have very different economic philosophies. There will be no concrete agreements on specific joint economic policy steps as a result of the summit. "We hope that we can just agree to agree," he said.

Mr Reagan said that the summit was only taken off the agenda because of the need to deal with the economic situation in Britain. He said that the summit was not a failure, but a necessary step in dealing with the economic situation in Britain.

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Opera faces axe in arts budget scrutiny

Simon Midgley of The Times
Diary Staff

The Royal Opera House, the English National Opera or one of our other national cultural institutions could lose millions of pounds of grant aid if the Arts Council's worst financial predictions for next year are fulfilled.

A contingency planning exercise being conducted by the council discusses several drastic ways of meeting a possible income shortfall of £5m, including withdrawing grant aid from one or other of the two major national opera companies, or abolishing council funding of the literary or the visual arts.

If either of the latter two options were to be chosen it would follow that either the council's art advisory panel or literature advisory panel would be abolished and the respective administrative sections re-deployed or disbanded.

Although the council is unlikely to know until the end of the year what money the Government will allocate for the arts in 1982/83, it has been considered prudent to develop contingency plans based on the worst possible outcome—a cash shortfall.

The Government's published expenditure forecast indicates that total spending on arts and libraries will fall in 1982/83 to 2 per cent below the 1981/82 level in real terms.

In order to prepare for the worst, the council is juggling with various possibilities and it appears that there will be no "sacred cows"—all areas of council expenditure are under scrutiny.

The Royal Opera House Covent Garden Ltd, which includes the Royal Opera Company, the Royal Ballet and Sadlers Wells Royal Ballet, received a grant of more than £2m from the Arts Council this year, 1981/82.

This accounts for between 50 and 55 per cent of its annual operating costs. The remainder came from earned income (45 per cent), including box office takings and television fees, and private sponsorship (between 3 and 4 per cent).

The English National Opera received £4.5m from the Arts Council this year (1981/82), which represents 60 per cent of its annual income.

Additional revenue comprises a GLC grant (11 per cent), box office takings (just over 24 per cent) and various minor items including theatre listings, touring receipts and sundry grants.

In December last year the Arts Council was criticized harshly for its decision to withdraw grant aid from 42 theatre companies, festivals and other arts organizations in order to save £12m.

Subsequently Prospect Productions, which at the Old Vic Company, went into liquidation, and several other companies have been in difficulties.

The Arts Council has already asked its 250 clients who regularly receive subsidy to state their requirements for next year. In June Sir Roy Shaw, the council's secretary-general, announced that 25 of these clients had been warned that some aspects of their work was unsatisfactory and would have to be rethought.

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Riots: Courts begin to deal with those accused; politicians begin to seek a solution

Two jailed in Brixton first 100

Only two people have received jail sentences in the first 101 cases arising out of the first Brixton riots in April. A black man, 18, received 18 months in jail for looting and a white man, 48, six months for assault on the police. Two white and one black youths were sentenced to three months in detention centre.

There were 63 black people on trial, 35 whites, 2 Mediterranean and one Asian. Fifteen of those dealt with by the Court were under the age of 16. At July 8 253 cases await trial making 354 arrests in all of whom 98 were white and 256 black.

Some of the more serious cases have yet to be heard, in the list below B is black, W white, A Asian, M Mediterranean, con. dis. 12 conditional discharge and unless otherwise indicated the sums represent the total of fines imposed. Burglary normally looting.

Theft (23 cases)
Male, 20, b: guilty plea, £100.
Male, 28, b: guilty plea, £100.
Male, 20, b: guilty plea, £75.
Male, 14, b: guilty plea, 12 months d.c.

Male, 16, w: cautioned.
Male, 32, b: 12 hours community service.
Male, 14, A: 12 hours community service.

Male, 11, b: cautioned.
Male, 16, b: guilty plea, £20.
Male, 27, w: guilty plea, £20.
Male, 28, b: guilty plea, 3 months imp. sus. 1 year.

Male, 17, w: 12 months probation.
Male, 16, w: con. dis. 12 months.
Female, 32, b: 12 months con. dis.
Female, 20, w: fined £50.

Male, 17, b: guilty plea, 3 months det. centre.
Male, 22, b: not guilty plea, £50.
Male, 13, b: guilty plea, absolute discharge.
Female, 16, b: not guilty plea, 12 months con. dis. pay £25 costs.

Male, 23, b: guilty plea, £75.
Male, 22, b: guilty plea, £75.
Offensive weapon (7 cases)
Male, 23, b: not guilty plea, £50.
Male, 28, b: B.O. £200 for 12 months.

Male, 19, w: fined £25.
Male, 19, b: not guilty plea, found not guilty.
Female, 22, w: guilty plea, 12 months con. dis.

Male, 24, b: guilty plea, £30.
Male, 20, b: guilty plea, fined £25 and £10.
Disorderly conduct (13 cases)
Male, 21, b: fined £40.

Male, 16, b: fined £10.
Male, 15, b: fined £5.
Male, 14, b: fined £5.
Male, 14, b: cautioned.

Male, 17, b: guilty plea, fined £10.
Female, 21, w: guilty plea, 12 months con. dis.
Female, 38, M: 12 months con. dis.

Male, 12, b: absolute discharge.
Male, 21, b: fined £70, 3 months imp. sus. 2 years.
Burglary (24 cases)
Male, 16, b: not guilty plea, found N.G.

Male, 16, b: fined £500.
Female, 17, w: 2 months imp. sus. 2 years.
Male, 14, b: 12 months imp. sus. 2 years. Fined £100 (theft).

Male, 15, b: 12 months con. dis.
Male, 17, b: 12 months con. dis.
Male, 20, w: not guilty plea, 2 months imp. sus. (3 cases con. curvenc). Fined £50.

Male, 28, b: not guilty plea, found N.G.
Female, 16, b: discharged Section 15.
Male, 14, w: guilty plea, 12 months con. dis.

Male, 18, w: 60 hours community service.
Female, 18, w: (1) con. dis. 18 months; (2) con. dis. 18 months, con. for handling.
Male, 14, b: placed in care.

Female, 17, b: guilty plea, 12 months con. dis.
Male, 15, w: fined £5.
Male, 14, M: 12 months con. dis. £100.

Male, 17, w: 3 months d.c.
Male, 17, w: 3 months d.c.
Male, 23, w: guilty plea, £100.
Male, 18, b: 18 months con. dis.

Female, 19, w: guilty plea, £50.
Male, 14, b: 12 months con. dis.
Female, 18, b: not guilty plea, 12 months con. dis.
Threatening behaviour (18 cases)

Male, 16, b: not guilty plea, found N.G.
Male, 25, b: guilty plea, £25.
Male, 18, b: fined £200, B.O. £200 for 12 months.

Male, 16, b: not guilty plea, B.O. £100 for 12 months.
Male, 17, b: guilty plea, £10.
Male, 15, b: not guilty plea, B.O. £100 for 12 months.

Male, 16, w: not guilty plea, found N.G.
Male, 18, b: B.O. £50 for 12 months.
Male, 24, w: fined £50.
Highway obstruction (2 cases)

Male, 16, b: fined £25, B.O. £100 for 12 months.
Male, 15, b: 12 months con. dis.
Obstructing police
Male, 16, b: not guilty plea, fined £30.

Male, 17, b: not guilty plea, found N.G.
Male, 27, b: fined £25.
Male, 20, b: fined £25.
Female, 26, b: fined £20.

Magistrates impose heavy fines and jail sentences

By Frances Gibb

Hundreds of young people, black and white, came before magistrates throughout the country yesterday and faced tough penalties, including fines of up to £500 and prison sentences of up to nine months, for offences arising out of riots in several cities at the weekend.

At a special riot court convened at Stockport, an engineering foreman, aged 37, was fined £300 for using threatening and abusive language to the police and an unemployed 28-year-old white man was jailed for nine months at Mablethorpe magistrates' court in London for looting a necklace worth £285.

At the same court Mr. Roderick Romain, the magistrate, fined a 33-year-old white mother of three £100 for shouting "black animals go home" in "Shepherd's Bush on Saturday night and warned that parents could end up in jail if further offences by their children made them liable for fines which they could not pay.

Probably the youngest defendant yesterday where two white sisters, 11 and 12, who appeared at Lambeth West Juvenile Court in London, one accused of stealing shoes, the other of attempting to steal from shops in Clapham.

They were typical of the majority of defendants in the court yesterday, not only because of their age and sex (they were the only girls charged in connection with the riots) but because of their "guilty" plea.

Every one of the other 10 defendants, seven of whom were black, denied charges ranging from theft to being in possession of offensive weapons, such as a wooden club or steel flail; and from criminal damage to inciting others to throw bricks or petrol bombs.

Accepting that in the case of the two girls their looting had been a "one-off escape" Mr. G. D. Gibbins, chairman of the bench, gave them a 12-month conditional discharge after their father said he had stopped their pocket money and banned them from going out for a month.

Of the other 10 defendants, aged 13 to 16 years, seven of whom had no previous convictions, seven were remanded on bail, four with curfew conditions, until later dates.

The same pattern of denials emerged at other courts where most of the 11 youths alleged to have been involved in skinhead rioting in the city centre pleaded not guilty and their cases were adjourned.

But elsewhere magistrates meted out heavy sentences. At Nottingham, 11 people were given custodial sentences, including up to four months imprisonment and up to six months in a detention centre. Many other defendants were

fined up to £500 for looting and using threatening words and behaviour.

Mr. Ronald Walton, court chairman, said: "I hope magistrates have made it quite clear that they will not tolerate offences of this sort. The courts must protect society and carry out their tasks fearlessly on behalf of the community."

Four youths were jailed for three months, one sent to prison for four months and a sixth to a detention centre for six months. Inspector Colin Sheppard told the court: "It was not a race riot. There were blacks and whites together."

At Leicester, 18 young people, four of them juveniles, appeared before magistrates. Robert Patrick Flowers, a white 18-year-old student, admitted threatening words and behaviour and was sent to a detention centre for three months.

Chief Inspector Peter Baker, prosecuting, said that just after midnight Flowers was one of a large group of youths running along Evington Street, Highfields, some of whom were carrying sticks and bottles. Flowers shouted to the police: "Kill the pigs. Kill the pigs."

A total of 40 people appeared before magistrates at Manchester, 26 white and 14 coloured; 14 in jobs and 26 unemployed. The magistrates dealt with 14 and the rest were remanded until later dates.

Gary Oxtan, aged 18, of South Radford Street, Salford, and Anthony Moynihan, aged 17, of Newton Heath, Manchester, were each jailed for two months for disorderly behaviour and Oxtan also pleaded guilty to causing criminal damage.

At Camberwell magistrates' court in South London, 37 people, including a 14-year-old girl, appeared on charges. A 21-year-old man who threw bricks at the court was jailed for 28 days and an 18-year-old Chelmsford youth who hurled 20 to 30 bricks at police was remanded for 12 months.

A 18-year-old jobless youth who stole a shirt was sentenced to eight weeks' jail suspended for two years.

Four people were arrested at Wolverhampton Magistrates Court late yesterday when an abortive attempt was made to free two men from the dock (Arthur O'Connor reports). They were appearing on charges arising out of recent street violence.

An application for bail was made and refused; shouting broke out in the public gallery and police officers on duty in the court were swept aside as people from the gallery attempted to free the men in the dock. Police reinforcements with drawn truncheons raced to the court building and managed to restore order.

Police seize CB radios

From Ronald Kershaw Wakefield

Evidence that rioting and looting in West Yorkshire towns last weekend was under some sort of direction and organisation by people using Citizens' Band radio was revealed by Mr. Ronald Gregory, Chief Constable of West Yorkshire, last night.

He said this was the most important development of the disturbances.

Hitherto the use of Citizens' Band radio had only been suspected but last night Mr. Gregory said: "Several arrests have been made and a number of Citizens' Band radio sets have been seized. The persons involved are helping the police with their inquiries and probably will appear in court before very long."

Mr. Gregory was speaking against a background of what he termed disorder and lawlessness in the Chapeltown district of Leeds, and in Normanton, Huddersfield and Halifax.

Over the past four days nearly 200 people have been arrested and 50 policemen injured. Two are still in hospital, one with concussion and the other with a fractured skull caused by part of a coping stone.

Mr. Gregory said some 500 police officers had been deployed in those areas to try to prevent looting and arson.

"This development with the Citizens' Band radio and the mobility and flexibility of these youngsters causes us great difficulty. They suddenly emerge in one place, die down and emerge somewhere else so we have to have our men deployed moving in, moving out and to ensure that they are not isolated."

Liberal councillors in Liverpool are calling for an investigation into the activities of a youth training centre run by a young man, Rev. John P. W. (WRP) less than a mile from the part of Toxteth worst hit by the rioting the weekend before last.

Mr. Charles Collins, deputy chairman of the council's housing committee, said yesterday: "I have asked both the city solicitor and the enforcement officer to look into it."

"I am convinced the centre is being used for political purposes and that it is behind some of the activities of the last few days. They are bringing youth into the area and stirring them up."

The WRP, a small Trotskyist group, whose best-known member is Miss Vanessa Redgrave, the actress, has another training centre in Brixton. According to an interview given to the local press when the Brixton centre was opened in January, it is the first of 25 such centres which the WRP hopes to set up in the next three years in areas of high unemployment.

The Brixton centre is in an old shirt factory in Bechworth Place, just off Brixton Road. The windows are protected by iron bars and a notice on the door reads "Youth Training—National Office".

Yesterday a coloured youth who answered the door said information about the activities inside could be obtained only by writing to Miss Redgrave. It was run by a committee of unemployed young people. A request to see inside was refused.

The building is leased from Lambeth Council by the Young Socialist Movement, whose chairman is Miss Redgrave.

The Liverpool training centre is in a run down former fudge factory in Gloucester Place, Edge Hill. Metal grilles again bar the windows and there is a tatty sign saying "Youth Training".

Mr. Joseph Clitheroe, a Liberal member of Liverpool City Council, said, "I am all in favour of training for young people, but I would seriously question the motives of these people."

"It seems strange that there is one of these workshops in Brixton and one just outside Toxteth, and they are places in which there has been turmoil."

But they are difficult to manoeuvre in narrow streets and it takes about 25 policemen simply to protect them from rioters who try to climb up them and immobilize the barrels. A hydraulic cannon which can turn on matter how many demonstrators are hanging on is being developed.

West German police, who have been using water cannons since the 1920s, find them useful for breaking up bunched demonstrators, quelling violence and stopping people building barricades, the Police Union said.

Sofar, only Zurich police are equipped with water cannon in Switzerland, although fire trucks with fixed nozzles have been called in occasionally in other cities.

The police regard it as a weapon with restricted applications, useful in clearing a passage in a street blocked by demonstrators but often ineffective against the "guerilla" tactics of Zurich dissidents operating in small groups from side streets and alleyways.

Water cannon in action during rioting in Amsterdam.

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Christian Waterkeyn, community policeman, makes friends with Terri Cain.

Where the PC tends to duck more often

By John Young, Planning Reporter

Last March Constable Christian Waterkeyn was posted as "Community Policeman" to the Stockwell Park housing estate, about half a mile from the centre of Brixton. His "honeymoon" with the residents lasted barely a month before the weekend of riots and looting which changed so many comfortable assumptions about the nature of English society.

On the Saturday evening, when the curfew was at its height, about 40 members of the Special Patrol Group moved into the estate, refusing to leave until order was restored. According to observers, the estate had been quiet up to that point, but the arrival of the SPG was greeted with furious abuse and hails of missiles.

Three months later Constable Waterkeyn is trying to pick up the pieces. Young, well-educated and highly articulate, he bears little resemblance to the traditional "bobby on the beat." But despite setbacks he still believes that the police already have wide powers to arrest people when they cause obstruction and these can be used to clear the streets. But when a riot is in progress, detailed evidence could be difficult to note.

Under the Riot Act, 1714, a magistrate was required to make a declaration under the Act and the crowd was required to disperse within an hour.

In the modernised Act that Mr. Waterkeyn is having prepared for the Cabinet to discuss, it is proposed that the declaration would be made by a designated police officer, and the period allowed for dispersal would be much less than an hour.

Once that time ran out, the police could arrest everyone remaining on the streets. It would be a catch-all situation, not open to argument or legal challenge. If the people remained, they would be guilty of an offence. The police would be immune from any legal action. There would be no question of appeal to a higher court. There could be heavy fines, and imprisonment of up to six months or a longer period.

Yesterday, while confirming that this proposal would be put to the Cabinet, several Ministers were doubtful whether it is necessary.

The doubts are said to include Mr. Whitelaw, himself, but the Government is under pressure from some Conservative backbenchers to strengthen the hand of the police.

Meanwhile, Mr. Whitelaw is anxious to clear up the confusion over "special courts" or "riot courts" mentioned in some newspapers over the weekend. Magistrates can, and do, sit at whatever time they choose, and can arrange special sittings at any time to meet special circumstances.

In fact, in the past four days, a number of benches have been in session at night time to deal with rioters. There is no question of the Government stepping in to speed up the handling of these cases; it is being left to the magistrates' discretion.

The Home Office working party on police protective clothing and equipment is considering a number of innovations. The issue of helmets is said to have been a great success, offering much greater protection than the traditional helmet. The police wearing them had more confidence and were able to break out of the set line formations to grab the offenders.

Provision of water cannon is controversial, even within the police service. The plan is that they should be made available, it being left to police authorities to decide whether they want to use them. The police, however, would operate them.

One of the disadvantages of water cannon is the relatively short range and rioters can easily escape them by running up side alleys.

Stunners rounds or plastic bullets are also being assessed for possible use, but only as a last resort when other methods have failed.

CS gas is put in the same category as plastic bullets for use only in extremity, as in Liverpool when there was a threat to a central police station. But there are dangers in its use, which must be dependent on wind strength and direction.

The Police Federation has pointed out that there would be dangers for police officers in some circumstances if they are not equipped with gas masks when the gas is used.

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Cabinet to consider quickie Riot Act

By George Clark, Political Correspondent

If the Cabinet decides on Thursday to introduce a new Riot Act to help the police take swift action against rioters, it will be a short Bill and facilities will be made to get it approved by the Commons and the Lords in the remaining three weeks before Parliament rises for the summer recess.

However, it is not certain that the Government will decide on this course. Mr. William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, and the law officers have been asked to put the arguments for and against the revival of an old legal provision which may not be suitable in modern circumstances.

Ministers also have to take account of the prospect that many Labour MPs, and possibly some Liberals, will have objections to a measure which will give the police the power to make summary arrests with hardly any safeguards for the innocent individual who may be caught in a riot.

Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, after her consultations with senior police officers, is said to be less than enthusiastic about a new riot act. Some Government advisers have said that the police already have wide powers to arrest people when they cause obstruction and these can be used to clear the streets. But when a riot is in progress, detailed evidence could be difficult to note.

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Mellish will not stand at general election

By Philip Webster, Political Staff

Mr. Robert Mellish, Labour MP for Southwark, Bermondsey, the former Labour government chief whip, said yesterday that he did not intend to stand for Parliament at the next general election.

Mr. Mellish, aged 68, had already said that he might resign in the autumn if he found that his work as vice-chairman of the Docklands Urban Development Corporation interfered too much with his duties as an MP.

He has also had differences with his left-wing dominated constituency general management committee, which has accused him of being out of touch with the mainstream of local party opinion.

Labour's national executive committee is inquiring into the running of the Bermondsey party.

Mr. Mellish held the seat with a 11,756 majority over the Conservatives at the last election, with the Liberals a poor third.

University grant cuts inquiry

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

The University Grants Committee has been summoned to appear before the Commons Select Committee on Education, Science and the Arts next week to explain the criteria it used in deciding how to distribute the cuts in the Government grant to universities.

The hearing will be in private. It will be the first time that the select committee, whose meetings are normally open to the public and the press, will have held a meeting behind closed doors. The Committee has been asked to explain the criteria it used in deciding how to distribute the cuts in the Government grant to universities.

Mr. John Osborn, Conservative MP for Sheffield, Hallam, said that they did not want to examine the criteria used by the committee but made the right decisions or not, but rather what factors were involved in reaching the decisions. The committee might decide to hold another session later in public.

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British Steel's Channel tunnel 'too dear' claim

By Michael Bailey, Transport Correspondent

British Steel's huge scheme for a combined bridge and tunnel across the Channel would cost not £3,500m but £10,000m to £11,000m, a rival promoter claims yesterday. Sir David Nicholson, chairman of the European Channel Tunnel Group, said they had begun by examining a scheme similar to British Steel's before settling for a "minimum-cost solution": a single-tube rail-only tunnel costing about £800m.

The BS-type scheme was an imaginary project which would require big modifications to both transport infrastructure in both Kent and northern France that would push up its cost to over £10,000m, and ECIT had concluded that in order to get something going now, a bored railway tunnel similar to that proposed by British and French Rail was the best way to advance.

It presented no technical difficulties, could be built quickly, and could be financed privately without recourse to government guarantees under a package prepared by the bankers. Speaking at a London Press briefing yesterday Mr Roger Salmon, a

director of Rothschilds, said he was satisfied that capital needed for a tunnel would be forthcoming from traditional sources of equity and credit finance in Britain, France, and international markets. A contribution from the EEC was possible and would be welcome, but was not necessary.

The ECIT, formed by civil engineering companies in Britain (Costain), France, Germany, and Holland, was one of the earliest of nine promoters whose proposals are now being sifted by the Department of Transport preparatory to a political decision by the United Kingdom Government by the end of the year.

They have agreed between the bridges and submerged tunnels before settling on a bored rail tunnel available in two possible sizes: six-metre internal diameter for rail traffic only; or 6.45 metres for through rail plus road vehicles on shuttle trains. It is up to the Governments to choose which, they say.

Of the port and ferry study which alleged last week that ferries could carry the whole of the traffic with existing ferries and bankrupt a tunnel, Sir David said: "It is what you would expect them to say. But we see no reason to subsidise it. It is a perfectly viable proposition."

Kenny Everett returns to favour with BBC

By Kenneth Gossling

Four new comedy series, the return of Kenny Everett and six new episodes in the new year of *Not the Nine O'Clock News* are included in the programme plans of BBC Television's light entertainment department for the coming autumn and winter.

Mr Everett is back, after being "booted out" in his own words, by the BBC in 1970, to do a Christmas show followed by a series of seven programmes in the new year. Other new comedy series are *Only Fools and Horses*, by John Sullivan, with David Jason; *Goodbye Mr. K*, by Peter Vincent and Peter Robinson, with Richard Briers and Hannah Gordon; *The Land of the Living*, by Carol Lamb and Geoffrey Palmer; and *John Fortune's Roger Don't Live Here Any More*, with Jonathan Pryce, who appeared in *Timon of Athens* and *The Caretaker* for BBC Television.

A new series of *Yes Minister* is also in preparation and will be ready later next year: and viewers will also be seeing the return of some of their favourite programmes: *To the Manor Born*, *Rosie*, *Last of the Summer Wine* and *Terry and June*. Series that caught on last year for the first time are also coming back: *Hi-De-Hi*, *Sorrells*, *Second Step* and *Sink or Swim*. The two *Rosies*, Corbett and Barker, have a new series as well as appearing together in a film without dialogue, devised by Rosalie Barker, called *By the Sea*.

The variety schedule includes 52 programmes of the twice weekly *Michael Parkinson Show*, six of Les Dawson, 16 of *The Generation Game*, 13 of *Jim'll Fix It*, the same number of *Blankety Blank* and 53 *Top of the Pops*.

Big increase in aid sought for Welsh museums

By a Staff Reporter

A new report on Welsh museums and galleries calls for the most substantial increase possible year by year in funding by the Welsh Office.

The report, written by Professor Brian Morris, principal of St David's University College, Lampeter, for the Standing Commission on Museums and Galleries, acknowledges a 38 per cent increase in grant for 1981/82; but the need, it says, is for a fourfold increase as soon as this might be done.

Professor Morris also calls for three new institutions for Wales, a national gallery, a national portrait gallery and a museum of physical science. Even the kind of increase in funding the report recommends would not, it says, take account of the impoverishment suffered in the past.

"The situation here," Professor Morris writes, "is directly comparable with that in the National Museum or the National Library in Wales, which, although it is a copy-

right library, has been so underfunded since the beginning of the century that it has accrued an almost insuperable backlog of needs.

"It would take years of extra and special provision to bring it to equality with other national libraries. We realise that there is no likelihood of such massive additional funds being made available to the Council of Museums in Wales in the years immediately ahead."

"This, however, should not obscure the vital need for the disorganised position of the Council to be fully and officially recognized."

It was almost true to say that the problems of museums in Wales, other than the national museum, could be solved at a stroke if the council were assured in the future of a level of funding to make it the equal of area museum councils in England.

Standing Commission on Museums and Galleries: Report on Museums in Wales (Stationery Office, £3.25).



Dr Runcie: "Delicately poised between the cliché and the indiscretion."

Archbishop's advice to royal couple

By John Withersow

Dr Robert Runcie, the Archbishop of Canterbury, disclosed yesterday that he had talked about the problems of marriage, sex and bringing up children when he discussed the royal wedding with the Prince of Wales and Lady Diana Spencer.

"The discussion we had together was not confined to the arrangements for the service," he told a press conference at Lambeth Palace. "We talked about the reasons for matrimony. That children should be brought up in the fear of the Lord, and that at a marriage one is creating a new family."

"Your loyalties to the old family exist but are subservient to loyalties to the new family. There has been a rather distorted attitude to sex, but in the true Christian tradition sex is a good thing given by God which nevertheless, like all God's good gifts, needs to be directed aright."

Dr Runcie, who, when he marries the couple at St Paul's Cathedral on July 29, will be conducting his first marriage ceremony since he became archbishop last year, added they had discussed "that in giving each other mutual society and support at different stages of the marriage one might be doing more supporting than the other."

Aware that he was poised delicately between the cliché and the indiscretion, he said the decision to exclude the "obey" clause in the service had been taken fairly quickly.

Jews win courage award

By Lucy Hodges

Two Jews who are in internal exile for wanting to leave the Soviet Union were presented with a special award in London yesterday by Mr George Thomas, Speaker of the House of Commons.

Ida Nudel, aged 50, exiled in Siberia since 1978, and Dr Victor Brailovsky, aged 46, the cyberneticist sentenced to five years in exile by Moscow courts last month, are the joint winners of the annual award of the Parliamentary Committee for the Release of Soviet Jewry.

Their prize, a Henry Moore lithograph inscribed by the artist with the words "For Courage in Defence of Freedom," were received by Mrs Elena Fridman, Ida Nudel's sister, and Professor John Ziman, on behalf of Dr Brailovsky.

Ida Nudel has been one of the leaders of the Soviet Jewry movement. Dr Brailovsky has held scientific seminars regularly in his Moscow flat for "refusenik" scientists until his arrest.

Millionaire chief of worldwide drugs ring found guilty of handless corpse murder

Alexander Sinclair, a millionaire head of a drugs ring, was found guilty yesterday of the "handless corpse" murder of Mr Marty Johnstone, a member of the drugs syndicate. Mr Sinclair, aged 35, was also convicted of conspiring to import drugs into the United Kingdom.

Two other men in the dock with him at Lancaster Crown Court were also found guilty of the murder and three people facing charges of conspiring to supply drugs were cleared.

The verdicts came after 38 hours of deliberation by the jury of seven men and five women in the 121-day-old case, 15 days short of the longest murder trial.

Mr Johnstone's handless, naked body was discovered accidentally by divers in a flooded quarry in Lancashire in October, 1979. The Crown said Mr Sinclair, a New Zealander, living at Stratford Court, Kensington, London, ordered Mr Johnstone's death after he had short-changed the syndicate.

Mr Johnstone had been lured to Britain from his Singapore base by the promise of a drugs contract, which was in fact phoney, and while he was being

driven towards Scotland he was shot twice and snatched in a lay-by on the A6 north of Lancaster.

Two men, Andrew Samuel Maher, aged 27, of Robin Hey, Moss Side, Leyland, Lancashire, and Frederick Charles Russell, aged 40, of Prince of Wales Road, Kentish Town, London, had pleaded guilty to the murder earlier and were not in court yesterday.

The jury foreman read out the unanimous verdicts in turn: Sinclair was guilty of murder and conspiracy to import drugs. He had pleaded guilty to conspiring to supply drugs.

Jimmy Smith, a former Scots Guardsman, of Durward Rise, Livingston, West Lothian, was guilty of murder. He had pleaded guilty to both drug conspiracy charges.

Keith "Billy" Kirby, of Daisy Meadow, Clayton Brook, near Preston, Lancashire, was guilty of murder. He had also pleaded guilty to both drug conspiracy charges.

Jack Barclay, of Briar Close, Finchley, London, was found not guilty of conspiring to import drugs and conspiring to supply them.

Errol Hincelman, a New Zealander, of High Road, Leyton, London, was found guilty of both drug conspiracy charges.

Karen Soich, Mr Sinclair's lover and also a New Zealander, of Stratford Court, Kensington, was found not guilty of both drug charges.

Christopher Scott Blackman, of Princess Road, Regent's Park, London, was found guilty of both drug conspiracy charges.

Kingsley Fagan, also a former Scots Guardsman, of Oakbank Street, Craigavon, Aldridge, was found not guilty of both drug conspiracy charges.

Sylvester Alphonso Pidgeon, of Truro Road, Walthamstow, London, was found guilty of both drug conspiracy charges.

Miss Soich, a lawyer, broke into tears as the jury foreman sat down.

The prosecution had said that the drug syndicate was a multi-million pound organisation at war with world society, peddling misery and slow death in Australia, New Zealand, the United States and the United Kingdom.

It smuggled heroin, cocaine and cannabis in the form of Thai sticks using passports

"like confetti". The men enjoyed the huge profits and would stop at absolutely nothing.

Mr Johnstone was in the way and had to be removed. After his death his hands were chopped off in an attempt to prevent identification and his face was disfigured with a hammer before his body was dumped in a quarry near Chorley, Lancashire.

The discovery of the body received extensive publicity and Mr Johnstone's lover Julie Hux and Barbara Pilkington, who lived with Mr Maher, went to the police. Their information led to the arrest of 40 people.

Lella Barclay, 49, of Briar Close, Finchley, London, who had earlier pleaded guilty to two drug charges was said by the prosecution to have been the banker for the English end of the syndicate. Her home was described as an Aladdin's cave of drug equipment and a safe house for the syndicate.

The court later resumed to hear the prosecution case against the three defendants who had pleaded guilty to all charges.

The trial continues.

The small-time cannabis operation which grew

Andrew Sinclair is wanted in Australia in connection with the murder of Douglas and Isobel Wilson, New Zealanders whose bodies were found in a shallow grave outside Melbourne in May, 1979. He met Mr Johnstone, the murdered man, in Auckland, New Zealand in 1975. Both were drug dealers, buying cannabis from Thai sailors. It was natural that the two competitors should form one business.

Mr Johnstone had convictions for theft and burglary and for growing cannabis plants, but as the drugs racket prospered, he became addicted to high living. Mr Sinclair told British police: "He wanted to live like money."

He also pointed out that the "obey" in wedding services had been refined from the Middle Ages when a wife would pledge to be bonny and buxom in bed and at board.

Dr Runcie appealed to married people not to treat the wedding simply as a spectacle, but to take the opportunity to renew their vows, whether silently or at special services.

He said Prince Charles and Lady Diana had not wanted special terms for their marriage. "They want it to be the same sort of marriage and the same sort of relationship with the officiating clergy as anyone."

And even though they were tolerant of the enormous interlarding of the enormous interlarding of the wedding, they saw it as a personal occasion.

He had met the couple for one long meeting and had discussed arrangements on subsequent occasions. They had opted for the traditional service, with elements of the new in the prayers, and had accepted his suggestion of an ecumenical flavour with representatives of other churches participating.

Prince Charles and Lady Diana had taken particular interest in the music and the drafting of the special prayer by the Rev Henry Williams. Prince Charles' former chaplain at Trinity College, Cambridge



Guilty: From left, James Smith, Keith Kirby and Alexander Sinclair.

1976 and eventually settled down back at Leyland, describing himself to neighbours as an importer-exporter.

He made frequent trips to the far East to meet Mr Johnstone and Mr Sinclair. He was in Thailand when Mr Johnstone executed what members of the gang believed was an especially big double-cross on a £500,000 drugs deal.

They were staying at the Thai resort of Pataya beach so that Mr Johnstone could buy heroin. He went to meet some tribesmen and came back with bags of sugar or flour in exchange for the syndicate's £15m.

He claimed he had been duped and that he dared not use his own gun in case other armed tribesmen were around. Nobody will ever know the truth about the deal—whether he cheated, the syndicate or whether the Thai men double-crossed him.

As operations expanded, couriers accompanied by an escort, would smuggle the syndicate's drugs through airports in two tarmac suitcases with false bottoms.

The prosecution at Lancaster claimed that the contents of each run were worth £15m and police have estimated that Mr Sinclair may have amassed as

much as £25m. Much of it is believed to be in Swiss bank accounts.

Greg Ollard, a gang middleman and Julie Thielman, his heroin addict girl friend, have not been seen since 1976. Police believe they are dead and their bodies are thought to be under Sydney airport runway. Their places were taken by Douglas and Isobel Wilson, but they were murdered after allegedly talking to police. A warrant has been issued in Australia for Mr Sinclair's arrest in connection with their murder.

Other deaths have been linked with the gang.

Australian and New Zealand police began to move in on the gang after the Wilson murders and, in the spring of 1979, the syndicate decided to move its headquarters to London and develop the British connexion.

During the last 15 months of his life, Mr Johnstone was spending £4,000 a month on hotels and travel.

But his behaviour was becoming more flamboyant. He took to strange dress, cowboy hats, nail polish and a walking cane.

Monique Van Putten, a key syndicate member, claimed he was smoking too much cannabis. According to evidence at the trial, she had warned that his behaviour would get everyone killed.

Mr Maher, Mr Johnstone's best friend, played "the Jews" and pumped two bullets into his head at point-blank range.

Public Service Pensions

issued by the PAYMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE

The Paymaster General's Office (PGO) regrets that industrial action by computer staff of two Civil Service unions at the office at Crawley is preventing the general issue of:

- replacement books for weekly paid pensions;
- pensioners paid monthly or quarterly direct to bank accounts;
- pension vouchers sent monthly or quarterly direct to pensioners.

Pensioners will be paid the full pension due to them as soon as possible after the end of the industrial action.

WEEKLY PENSIONS

If you are paid weekly through the Post Office and your expired pension book has not been replaced, take the empty book to your usual Post Office. In most cases the Post Office will be able to make one emergency payment at the old rate each week until your new book arrives. If you are away from your normal address, another Post Office can make emergency payments but only for two weeks. The Post Office can pay only the value of one week's pension at a time. You should apply each week.

If the Post Office cannot make emergency payments, you should seek help at 2 and 3 below, enclosing your expired book if you write to the PGO.

MONTHLY & QUARTERLY PENSIONS

If your pension is paid monthly or quarterly and you are in financial difficulty, help will be available in the following ways:

- If your pension is paid into a bank account, you should see your bank manager taking with you your most recent advice of payment. Banks have been advised that this industrial action may cause problems outside the pensioner's control, and your bank manager may be prepared to help. The PGO, however, regrets that it is unable to defray any charges that may arise.
- If you are in serious financial difficulties you should seek advice at your local Social Security Office and, if you are without means, you may claim urgent help by way of supplementary benefit.
- If your bank or the Social Security Office is unable to help, you should write to the PGO for an emergency payment.

Pensioners writing should address the letter (no stamp required) to: PAYMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE, FREEPOST, CRAWLEY, WEST SUSSEX RH10 1ZA—enclose an unstamped self-addressed envelope marked boldly with the date on which payment is due, and the PENSION REFERENCE.

Every endeavour will be made to issue the payment as soon as possible, but some delay may be unavoidable. Unfortunately it will not be possible to accept telephone requests for emergency payments.

NOTE: This notice applies only to public service pensions issued from the PGO, Crawley, such as pensions to retired teachers, civil servants, NHS employees, certain retired members of the armed forces and the dependants of each group. It does not apply to National Insurance retirement pensions issued by DHSS.

SEX APPEAL IN CHURCH SUGGESTED

A vicar's wife yesterday called for women to be ordained as priests so that their sexuality will attract more men to church.

Mrs Jean Mayland, organizer of an international conference on Sexism in the Church, said: "There is a good positive side of sexuality which should be exploited for religion."

Mrs Mayland, aged 44, whose husband is Vicar of Ecclesfield, near Sheffield, called for priestesses after the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, opened the conference in Sheffield at the weekend.

She said yesterday: "I definitely think women would attract men to the church. For far too long the church has been dominated by male sexuality, and many women have found comfort from father figures."

"But it is a form of sexuality that often leads to perversion and promiscuity."

She continued: "Men have been required to be non-sexual. But sex is not something that the church should be frightened by. There is an intimate relationship between religion and sex. They are both involved with the basic answers to an understanding of creation."

But Dr Runcie has held few hopes for the priesthood. "Women do invaluable work in the church as marriage guidance counsellors, spiritual advisers and so on," he said.

£1m FOR SECURITY

Broadmoor Hospital, at Crowthorne, Berkshire, is to have a new emergency control centre built at a cost of £1m.

Archaeology

Medieval salt industry uncovered at Nantwich

By Norman Hammond, Archaeology Correspondent

Unusual evidence of one of Britain's medieval cottage industries, salt-making, has been uncovered in recent excavations at Nantwich, Cheshire. Two hollow log "ships" for boiling brine were found, dating to the sixteenth century, together with traces of earlier buildings used for salt production and known as "wick houses". One of the log ships has been lifted for conservation and eventual museum display.

Nantwich was, together with Middlewich and Northwich, one of the principal salt-towns of Cheshire, and brine boiling is known to have begun at the west bank of the River Weaver in the thirteenth century and continued until the sixteenth.

There had not, however, been any archaeological study of the medieval saltworks hitherto until a known site in Wood Street became available during sewerage works.

The excavation, reported in the recent issue of *Current Archaeology*, found two periods of activity: the "ships" belong to the later of these, and consisted of hollowed-out tree trunks set in a solid bed of clay. The better-preserved of the two was 8.5 metres (28 feet) long, divided by wooden spars into unusually sized compartments.

Each is estimated to have held some 400 gallons of brine, and to have produced about 130 gallons of salt at a boiling, a substantial rate of productivity.

No contemporary brick houses were found, but historical documents indicate that the boiling was carried out under cover. Half a dozen brine barrels were found in a line to the east of the "ships", and three channels may have been for draining off excess brine from the newly stored salt.

From the earlier, medieval period of the site two wick houses were excavated, one lying just south of one of the later boiling-ships, the other a massive post-built structure under both shipsteadings. The flimsier southern house was built of sallows and wattle panels, the other walls of lath; both were open-ended barnlike structures between 10 and 12 metres long and 8 metres wide (about 39 by 26 feet), opening on to Wood Street.

Among the finds were a conical wicker "barrow" basket used for storing the salt, and wooden salt rake heads, used for pulling the precipitating salt to the sides of the pans. This furniture is of thirteenth and fourteenth century date, but the types are recorded as being still in use in the late sixteenth century, an interesting example of persisting traditional technology. Documentary sources indicate that the Domesday salt works were east of the river on Snow Hill, so that the earlier history of salt making in Nantwich will have to be pursued elsewhere.

Source: *Current Archaeology* VII No 6, 185-187.

GUITAR IS THE MALE'S PRESERVE

By Our Music Reporter

The classical guitar seems certain to remain the preserve of male players, if entries for the first Segovia International Guitar Competition are a fair indication of the guitarists of the future. Only about one in ten of the young contestants are women.

American and British players dominate the 50 entrants from 19 countries, accepted for the competition which will be held at Leeds Castle, Kent, from October 9 to 14.

As well as 15 contestants from the United States and 12 from Britain, there are four Argentinians, three Italians and players from Iceland, Canada, Australia, Brazil and Poland.

There is only one performer from Segovia's homeland, Spain, although the competition is sponsored by the Sherry Producers of Spain.

The youngest competitor is a Briton, Paul Galbraith, aged 17. The prize money totals £5,450 and there are offers of concerts and recordings in London, Paris and Rome.

MAN ON BANNED MARCH FINED

Pleading guilty at Willesden, London, yesterday to obstructing the police in Kilburn, London, on April 26, George Wright, aged 34, of Brougham Road, Hackney, was fined £80 and a further £5 for failing to appear on June 30.

He was arrested when police were preventing a banned march in support of the Irish Hunger strike, Robert Sands.

Unions say 24-hour gas strike fully supported

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Correspondent

British Gas and union leaders both said last night that the majority of the corporation's 166,000 manual and white-collar workers had taken part in an official 24-hour strike against the Government's plans to sell off all the high street gas showrooms.

Some areas of the country, including the North-east, Cumbria and West Midlands and parts of the North-west were left without a normal emergency service after local union officials failed to agree with managements on the level of safety cover to be provided.

British Gas said in the early evening, however, that there had been no reports of serious incidents putting the public or users at risk. In most regions emergency cover was roughly equivalent to that for a bank holiday.

The strike was reported to have closed the 900 gas showrooms along with service centres, and all but top management had walked out at the corporation's main depots, except Killingholme in the East Midlands, a high-risk butane plant where the unions agreed to provide 75 per cent safety cover.

Because of British Gas's highly automated transmission of natural gas through underground pipelines there had by early last evening been no appreciable effect on supplies.

Both the General and Municipal Workers Union and the National and Local Government Officers' Association, who yesterday claimed 100 per cent support for the strike, have given warning that a more prolonged stoppage would shut down the supply system.

Mr John Edwards, national emergency officer for the GMBU, said last night that the unanimous support of the union's 46,000 members in the industry demonstrates the bitterness they feel at the Government's decision, and the threat to 30,000 jobs.

He added: "We hope that now we have demonstrated that we can bring the industry to a halt that the Government will listen to the strong arguments against damaging a successful nationalised industry."

Pickets were present outside many showrooms, depots and regional headquarters. Police were alerted to deal with emergencies in the Merseyside and Manchester areas, and in Northamptonshire, where the union withdrew emergency cover after claiming that staff had been instructed to deal normally with customer enquiries.

British Gas however reported that elsewhere, including the Norfolk region and Bristol, senior management had been able to provide limited but adequate emergency cover.

The unions are expected to hold further talks with Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Energy, before taking any steps towards a more prolonged stoppage.

There is a growing belief in Whitehall that there might not be room in the parliamentary timetable for legislation on the Government proposals as early as the next session.

At Chertsey, the halfway point in yesterday's journey to Windsor, Captain Turk and his entourage, representing the Ancient Companions of Vintners and Dyers as well as the Crown, had seen not one cygnet and precious few adult birds. The second stage of the journey was a little better, but not much.

When one passer-by at Chertsey lock said she had seen three cygnets in a gravel pit near Shepperton, Captain Turk shook his head and said ruefully: "They must have known we were coming."

Swan upping, a corruption of "driving up", is nothing more or less than a census-taking, a legacy of the days when the bird was an important food source.

Each family of mute swans, pen, cob and cygnets, is caught and inspected for the mottled beak that indicates ownership by the Vintners and Dyers, or the unmarked beak that is the prerogative of the royal birds. Cygnets receive the same marks, or remain unmarked, as their parents.

Biologists, who are pleased to have the Crown carrying out this useful ecological survey for them, are unanimous in their opinion that lead poisoning is the cause of the swans' decline and that the most likely source of lead is anglers' weights. The anglers, not surprisingly, demur.

But until a satisfactory non-toxic substitute for the weights is devised, the decline of the swan and the controversy, will probably continue.

Counting the lead with various impermeable substances does not work. The fearsome digestive process of the swan grinds them away.

It may be some small consolation that the decline of the mute swan in the Thames was being deplored in *The Times* at least as long ago as 1928. It is indeed a grand tradition; and Captain Turk must be fervently hoping, as he continues to wend his doleful way up the Thames this week, that the swan upping of 1981 will not be the last.

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Third Jenkins enters Warrington fray

From John Chatter, Manchester

The name of Jenkins continues to loom large over the Warrington by-election. In spite of the elimination of "the other Roy Jenkins" by the returning officer last week, yet another member of the Jenkins family has appeared on the scene yesterday in support of the Labour candidate.

He proceeded to decry the proposals made by fellow-crisisman Mr Roy J, for solving unemployment, which remains the predominant election issue.

Last week Mr Roy J (candidate for the Social Democratic Party), put forward a six-point plan to take one million people off the dole queues. His points included a £70 a week grant to private employers for each extra worker taken on who had been unemployed for more than six months; a £500m investment programme in public industry; and a crash programme to improve sub-standard homes, providing work for up to 250,000 long-term unemployed.

Yesterday Mr Clive J, general secretary of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs speaking on behalf of his fellow trade union official, Mr Douglas Hoyle, the Labour candidate, used such impolite phrases as "economically illiterate, sheer romanticism, derisory, and arithmetically juvenile" about what is labelled in an SDP pamphlet as the "Roy Jenkins plan to cut unemployment".

Mr Clive J claimed a full-blooded socialist programme to curb unemployment would involve the investment of £200,000m (much of the cash being obtained from Britain's oil and gasfields) and would recreate one million jobs in the first two years of the next Labour administration.

However, at yesterday morning's press conference Mr Roy J derived great encouragement from the support he had received during an intense weekend of political activity involving 10 SDP and Liberal MPs, including Mr Jo Grimond, who, he said, had "embled in".

Mr Roy Jenkins while careful, as usual, never to commit himself too much in a public statement, thought he was gaining support not only from Labour voters who were worried about the left-wing direction of the party, but also from many former abansers.

He and his supporters thought a figure extracted from recent public opinion polls showing that 4,000 previous Labour adherents in the constituency would vote for him was "quite realistic".

Psychological calculations around these figures would put Mr Jenkins a very good second indeed, and might confound some weekend predictions that Mr Hoyle will have a landslide majority.

Mr Stanley Sorrell, the Conservative candidate, who holds the first press conference of the day, but who someone always becomes relegated to third place in the forecasts, chose community spirit as his theme yesterday. Youth clubs were over-organised, with too many paid workers around.

He suggested more part-time trade training for pupils aged between 14 and 16 on a one-day-a-week basis, and supported the principle of national service. He admitted that since it had been long abandoned (he did his national service in the Royal Corps of Signals) it would probably cost too much to reintroduce it.

He also revealed that he was one of the original Teddy Boys, but hastened to add that he and his friends never got involved in violence. "We just dressed ourselves up," he explained.

Mr Sorrell, likely from now on to be labelled as London bus driver and former Teddy Boy, reiterated that he was satisfied with what Mrs Thatcher was doing, including her handling of the recent riots, and declared he was not going to come third, nor lose his deposit, but that he would win.

Mrs Thatcher's visit to Liverpool, only a few miles away, was clearly unknown to Mr Sorrell and his official party supporters at his morning press conference. When news of it broke amongst the press corps there was a considerable flurry as to whether one should be in Warrington or Liverpool at lunchtime yesterday.

Correction
In a report yesterday on archaeology courses at universities the reference to the new archaeology programme in scientific methods at Bradford University should have read "MA programme in scientific methods".

IN BRIEF
JP quits over rightwing cell
Mr Alan Todd, a magistrate at Oxford resigned yesterday three days after it was revealed he had joined an extreme rightwing organisation.

Mr Todd, aged 45, said he became a member of the Hampshire-based British Resistance to expose it and to satisfy his curiosity.

Topping a flagpole
The top section of the 225-feet high flag pole at New Garside, is to be removed next week because it is rotting. The flagstaff, fashioned from Douglas fir, weighs 39 tons and is six feet six inches wide at the base.

Patients poisoned
Two women psychiatric patients have died in an outbreak of food poisoning which started last week at Hartwood hospital, Shotts, Lanarkshire, health officials disclosed yesterday. Forty eight other patients and six staff also affected are now recovering.

Boxer's trial delay
John J. Gardner, aged 28, British and European heavyweight boxing champion, of Winston Road, Stoke Newington, north London, who was due to stand trial at Inner London Crown Court yesterday, charged with office burglary and cheque fraud, had his case put back for a date to be fixed. Bail was renewed.

Costly advice
Citizens Advice Bureaux need more cash to help them cope with increasing requests from the public, the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux director, Mr Jeremy Leighton, said yesterday. The NACAB is funded by Whitehall and local bureaux by local authorities.



Photograph by Robin Lawrence

Worst day of swan upping for centuries

By Tony Samstag

Captain John Turk is not a happy man this morning. Yesterday's swan upping, the opening of the annual procession of the Queen's rans and five Thames skiffs up the Thames from Sunbury to Pangbourne, was the worst in his dozen years as Royal Keeper of the Swans.

It was most probably the worst day of swan upping in the four-to-seven centuries this curious ritual is thought to have existed.

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Big rise in private health insurance

By Annabel Ferriman, Health Services Correspondent

The number of subscribers to private health insurance schemes went up by 27 per cent in 1980, the highest increase ever recorded. The total rose from 1.3 million to 1.6 million, a report published today.

By the end of the year 3.5 million people, the subscribers and their families, were covered for private health care, representing 6.4 per cent of the population.

Most of them had the money paid out by the provident societies went on hospital accommodation (51 per cent), a further 25 per cent on surgeons' fees (25 per cent), and only 2 per cent went on other specialist fees, reflecting the fact that most people use their insurance for surgery.

A report by Lee Donaldson, Associations, consultant economist, says that about half the rise was accounted for by a 53 per cent rise in those joining through occupational schemes, in which individuals enrol in a group brought together by a professional association or trade body.

Companies enrolled another 150,000 of their employees, those enrolling as individuals increased by 10,000, and those joining through occupational schemes went up by 180,000.

The British United Provident Association (BUPA), a major player in the market, announced with 71 per cent of total subscription income. BUPA's Patients Plan attracted 23 per cent of the total, and Western Provident Association some 4 per cent.

Private patients paid £127.7m for hospital care, of which £114m was reimbursed by the provident associations.

President, *Statistical Society* 1980 (London: Association of Statisticians, 24, Bury Street, London SW1V 6AL; £3 inc.).

Top nurses' union backs 6% offer

By Our Health Services Correspondent

The Royal College of Nursing, the biggest of the three nursing unions, has voted by more than three to one to accept the Government's 6 per cent pay offer.

The college, which has 185,000 members, canvassed opinions among its branches and stewards, and received 154 comments. Almost four-fifths of the branches who answered wanted to settle and three-quarters of the stewards favoured acceptance.

The offer has been rejected, however, by the National Union of Public Employees, and 80,000 nurse members. Results of a ballot by the Confederation of Health Service Employees, representing 130,000 nurses, are expected today.

Representatives of all nursing and midwifery unions come together today at a meeting of the staff side of the Whitley Council to decide what policy to adopt.

A spokesman for the Royal College of Nursing, which has eight out of the 10 seats on the Whitley Council, said yesterday: "The majority of those who endorsed the offer did so because they could see no alternative offer being made. The offer was seen as highly unsatisfactory, and many thought it insulting in the light of awards made recently to miners, policemen and the Armed Forces."

JUDGE RULES CLINIC WAS NEGLIGENT
The Marie Stopes clinic which provides advice and treatment on women's medical problems was medically negligent in its treatment of a 45-year-old mother of two, a High Court judge decided in London yesterday.

Mrs Norma Pearl Sutton was lured into a false sense of security when she was told she had no malignant cancer in her left breast, the judge said.

Mr Justice McCowan, giving a reserved judgment, said a nurse employed at the Well Woman Centre, at Marie Stopes House in Whitfield Street, Bloomsbury, London, had broken its very sensible rules that the centre must act as a referral source and must not take on the role of a diagnostician.

"In my judgment the nurse broke the rule and in so doing was negligent," he said.

The judge said no doctor at the clinic saw the result of a hospital test carried out on Mrs Sutton in 1977 or discussed the hospital report with the nurse.

If a clinic doctor had seen the report, then the proper course would have been to refer Mrs Sutton to a doctor about her lump which, she said in evidence, she had mentioned, the judge said.

The judge, who had been asked to decide whether the clinic had been negligent or not, said he would be prepared to decide the damages to be awarded to Mrs Sutton, of Duke Street, London, if agreement could not be reached.

He rejected a claim by Foundation Services Family Programme Ltd, who run the clinic, that Mrs Sutton had been negligent in not telling her own doctor about a lump.

He also dismissed Mrs Sutton's claim against Dr Gillian Mary Neame, a Wood Street, Berberian, London, who had denied professional negligence.

Mrs Sutton had surgery to remove her left breast in April, 1978, and a second operation in October of the same year.

Disabled jobs quota is to end

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent

Fears that the Manpower Services Commission review of the quota scheme for disabled workers would lead to its abandonment are confirmed in a draft of the final report, to be published next week, which has reached *The Times*.

The review recommends that the quota be abolished in favour of new legislation placing a general statutory duty on employers to take reasonable steps to promote equality of opportunity in employment for disabled people.

The new statutory duty would be linked to a suggested code of practice which would provide as a rough guide that the proportion of disabled people employed should be broadly equal to the existing quota level of 3 per cent for companies with 20 or more staff.

The proposals will be seen as a considerable weakening of existing legislation, which requires private companies to meet the quota. Although it is widely accepted that the quota has not been enforced fully, it is seen by most disabled organisations as a valuable protection for disabled workers which should be strengthened.

The commission, however, appears to regard the present quota as a hindrance to employment and unsuited to present circumstances. Its report says the number of registered disabled people has dropped from 666,400 in 1961 to 470,000 in 1980, a fall from 3.1 per cent of the workforce to 1.9 per cent.

The report comments: "The decreasing numbers of disabled people choosing to register have meant that employers are being expected to comply with, and enforce, an impracticable law."

As a direct result of the decline in registration, the report says, the number of firms complying with the law has steadily declined. In 1961, 61.4 per cent of private firms met the quota, but by last year the proportion had fallen to 35.1 per cent.

The document states that the commission has not tried to enforce the quota scheme more strictly because it believes it would have little value. Stricter enforcement would have diverted its resources from other services to disabled people and raised questions about the suitability of particular people for specific jobs.

The report recommends a comprehensive policy on the employment of disabled people, including certain initiatives such as the "fit for work" campaign, reinforced by the statutory general duty.

But the document makes clear that resort to law would be a last resort.

The courts would be brought in only after a lengthy process involving commission staff in visits to suspect firms, bringing in independent third parties, and, if that failed, serving improvement notices. Only if companies failed to comply with these notices would they be taken before magistrates, and they would then have the right to appeal to industrial tribunals.

The civil servant who is more like a politician

By Peter Hemmings

One way of judging the impact of a senior civil servant is by the number of polished anecdotes that are retailed about him. On that score the man who dominates Whitehall talk is Sir Frank Cooper, Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Defence.

He has lived through the sixth defence review since he entered the Air Ministry in 1948.

A typical example came from a seasoned Cooper-watcher who inquired rhetorically one day: "What is the secret of Frank's power? He cannot think. He cannot write and he cannot talk that well either."

"I know, I reckon he gets away with it because he is more of a politician than the politicians themselves. They have never met a civil servant like that before and they do not know how to handle it."

Sir Frank denies that, as he does another delicious story put about by a mischievous Northern Ireland politician when he was permanent secretary to Mr Merlyn Rees in the Northern Ireland Office. Merlyn, said the politician, "was the finest who repaired Frank's Spitfire in the war and the relationship is exactly the same today."

The two did know each other in Italy where Mr Rees was a squadron leader doing the administrative work for four squadrons in one of which was serving Flight Lieutenant Cooper.

More generally, Sir Frank said: "I do not think I am when you call a politician. I think I am quite a good operator, but then I never think very much about myself."

It is easy to see how the stories arise. In appearance, Sir Frank is a mixture of industrial tycoon and dance hall bouncer. He is incapable of speaking the language of White Paper, talks very bluntly in a style all of his own in private, coming up with phrases like "Old X, he has moved to the right of barbed wire" and almost equally bluntly in public before select committees.

Chatting in his office the other day about the recent defence review, he said it was right to have got it over and done with swiftly. "John Nott [Secretary of State for Defence] has run the thing very much himself which I think is absolutely fundamental to a democracy that ministers do actually run their departments. I am very strongly opposed to officials trying to run the minister."

But did not six reviews in 31 years say something about the quality of defence policy making? "I don't think there was any way you could have had one review alone and got it right. The real problem still is that defence is very tightly linked to what is happening in the economy."

"People do tend to be rather more optimistic than events have proved to be in practice. What seems to me to be terribly important now is to improve the quality of our thinking about the future, particularly the rate at which technology has advanced and the real cost of equipment."

He portrays himself these days as no longer a great policy animal, but I see all the papers and even dare to disagree with some of them now and then. Management is his forte and he has trimmed the Ministry of Defence by 38,600 staff since he returned from Northern Ireland four years ago.

A multitude of people in Whitehall regard Sir Frank as the best Head of the Home Civil Service we never had though he has always maintained that he would much rather be at defence which for him is home. It has even been suggested that the Prime Minister should ask him to stay on when he reaches retirement age at the end of next year to shake up the bureaucracy and reform it.

Curb on lobster imports
By Hugh Clayton, Agriculture Correspondent
Import curbs to keep a serious disease of lobsters out of Britain were announced by Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, yesterday in a written Commons answer. After the beginning of next month a Government licence will be needed to import a live north American lobster.

The Government acted under pressure from fishermen worried about the danger to British lobster stocks of imports infected with Gaffkemia. The disease, which kills lobsters, spreads quickly in breeding tanks.

Mr Walker said there was a risk of importing the disease, although scientific evidence suggested that European lobsters were free of it.

"The disease does not pose any risk to those eating lobsters," he added.

هكذا من الأصل

Tehran business leaders executed by firing squads

A prominent Tehran businessman and supporter of former President Bani-Sadr was among 28 "counter-revolutionaries" executed in Iran yesterday, (Reuters reports from London).

Tehran radio said Mr Karim Dastmalchi, a leading member of the Tehran bazaar which financed the Islamic revolution against the late Shah, had discredited the Islamic Republic in interviews given to foreign television networks.

Mr Dastmalchi was active in the lengthy power struggle between Mr Bani-Sadr and the Islamic Republic Party and had been a supporter of Iran's centrist National Front which led early opposition to the Shah.

Second businessman executed was named as Mr Ahmad Javaherian. The radio said he had also been accused of profiting since the start of the Gulf war with Iraq.

Specific charges against Mr Dastmalchi included creating disruption among the bazaar's Muslim merchants and encouraging them to stage shutdowns and other protest demonstrations.

It was the first time in the present drive against opponents of the Islamic Government that businessmen who were prominent in the revolution had been sent to the firing squad.

Nearly all those arrested and tried since Mr Bani-Sadr's downfall have been supporters of the Mujahidin or of the Marxist Fedayeen group.

This was the case of 19 people executed yesterday in Tehran and towns along the Caspian Sea, a traditional left-wing stronghold. The radio said they were guilty of armed rebellion against the Islamic Republic.

About 200 people have been executed by firing squad in the past month and the rate of executions has risen since the June 28 bombing that killed 72 leading politicians at the Islamic Republic Party headquarters in Tehran.

The remaining seven people executed included five drug dealers, a rapist and a supporter of Mr Shapur Bakhtiar, the Shah's former Prime Minister, the radio said.

The official Pars news agency meanwhile reported an assassination attempt on two clerical officials of revolutionary courts in the Caspian area. Three motor cyclists opened fire on the officials but were driven off by bodyguards.

In Tehran, newspapers reported a grenade attack on a Revolutionary Guard post in which four guards were wounded.

□ Tehran: Security forces headquarters here called on people in the city to hand over any firearms they possess—and without fear of incrimination. In an appeal on Tehran radio, they said they would limit action to thanking the people who handed in their weapons.

Some leftist opposition movements, notably the Mujahidin, possess considerable quantities of arms, which they obtained at the time of the Shah's overthrow.—A.P.

Pakistan summons Indian envoy over clash report

Islamabad, July 13.—The Pakistan Foreign Ministry summoned the Indian ambassador here today to explain "sensitive" Indian press reports of military activities along their border.

The summons was the latest incident in relations between India and Pakistan which are becoming increasingly narrow as a result of the two countries' defence plans. India is buying military equipment from the Soviet Union and Pakistan from the United States.

A Foreign Ministry statement said Mr Narwar Singh, the Indian ambassador, was asked to clarify Indian press reports at the weekend of a build-up of Pakistani troops on the border.

He was also asked to explain another report by the Press Trust of India news agency that five Pakistani soldiers were killed in an incident along the line administered by the United Nations separating Indian and Pakistani troops in Kashmir. A Foreign Ministry statement strongly denied both reports.

In line with a long-standing policy, the United Nations military observer group that administers the line of control would not comment on the Kashmir report.



Señor Pérez Llorca (left), Spain's Foreign Minister, with Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, in Brussels yesterday.

FRUIT FLY SPRAYERS GROUNDED

From Our Correspondent
Los Angeles, July 13

California's controversial battle to eradicate the Mediterranean fruit fly took another strange twist yesterday when Mr Casper Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, refused to allow helicopters spraying pesticides to use military bases in the area.

He overruled Mr John Block, the Agriculture Secretary, and Navy officials who had given permission for the aircraft to use Moffett Field from tomorrow.

There has been strong opposition on health grounds from residents in the Santa Clara valley, which includes the city of San Jose, to the aerial spraying and today residents took legal action to try to stop the spraying.

On Friday, under pressure from Washington and a threat of a quarantine on all fruit and vegetables in the state, Mr Jerry Brown, the State Governor, agreed to let aerial spraying go ahead in efforts to wipe out the fruit fly, which is threatening the wealthy agricultural industry.

A Santa Clara judge, considering the injunction filed by residents, said today that there could be no aerial spraying against the fly until he finished the hearing, which might take up to two days.

Spain wants 'EEC rights' for citizens in Gibraltar

From Michael Hornsby, Brussels, July 13

The Lisbon Agreement, which should have come into effect on June 1 last year, provides, among other things, that "future co-operation (over Gibraltar) should be on the basis of reciprocity and full equality of rights."

The British have always taken the line that the reference to future co-operation means that equal rights are to be granted only after the Spanish have fulfilled their undertaking.

Señor Pérez Llorca said Madrid was not demanding immediate full equality of rights with people of Gibraltar for Spanish citizens, but felt that Spaniards should as a first step have at least the same rights as EEC citizens.

Earlier, in talks with all the 10 EEC foreign ministers, Señor Pérez Llorca was unable to get any clear promise of real progress in Spain's entry negotiations before the Community has completed its internal budgetary and agricultural reforms.

The Spanish argue that the entry negotiations and the internal reforms should go hand in hand, and Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo, the Spanish Prime Minister, thought he had won President Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, in New York during the United Nations General Assembly session.

Community stays with Afghan plan

From Our Own Correspondent
Brussels, July 13

European Community foreign ministers agreed here today to continue to promote their proposals for an international conference on Afghanistan despite the hostile response from the Soviet Union.

They decided not to make any changes now in the proposal to meet Soviet objections. But British sources said that amendments might be considered if the Russians showed that they were prepared to talk about a solution.

The Ten said in a statement that they "strongly believed that the approach outlined in the proposal represents a logical, realistic and constructive attempt to resolve an international problem which remains an important cause of tension and human suffering."

They said there had been favourable reactions from a significant number of countries and the response of others was awaited.

If the EEC's proposal for a two-stage conference is to be taken any further, it is unlikely to be before September when Lord Carrington, the EEC president, will meet Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, in New York during the United Nations General Assembly session.

10,000 ton hashish harvest

Lebanon's potent whiff of wealth

From Robert Fisk, Baalbek, July 13

The dark green fields now run the length of the upper Bekaa valley, from Hermel 70 miles down to Deir Zeinoun south of Baalbek, a strip of foliage that clings to the foothills of Mount Lebanon and now even runs parallel to the old straight road that the Romans built up to the temples of the Heliopolitan Triad.

The plants look innocent enough, perhaps. Sit high with short branches of small, spiky flowers rather like sleepy cactus trees. A battery of Syrian Sam 6 rockets flaunts its power beside one such field along the Beirut highway. But the plants have a potency all of their own.

For Lebanon's hashish farmers have extended their fields further south than ever before, brazenly spreading their pastures beside the main roads of the Bekaa without even bothering to lay down an innocuous potato patch between the highway and their wealth-producing crop.

In Baalbek, they tell you that this year will produce a record crop. They say that every year, and every year, there is no doubt that they are right.

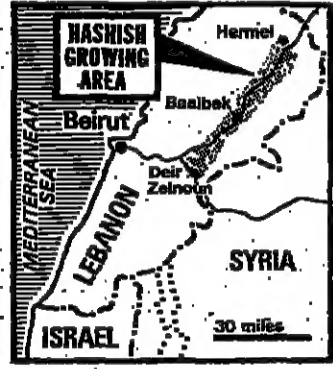
No one can be certain how big that crop really is. The 10 big farming families around Baalbek—there are over 100 but hashish, of course, and one has a couple of privately owned tanks to defend its fields—reckon that an estimated production of 10,000 tonnes is on the safe side. Indeed, one report has suggested that as much as 30 per cent of Lebanon's foreign currency earnings are in some way related to hashish exports.

The farmers like to remain as anonymous as the smooth young men who have already visited Baalbek this year to sample the crop for their prospective purchasers. "The buyers are always very polite," a farmer's son says. "They are well dressed and they know what they are looking for. They rub their fingers on the plants and smell their hands after."

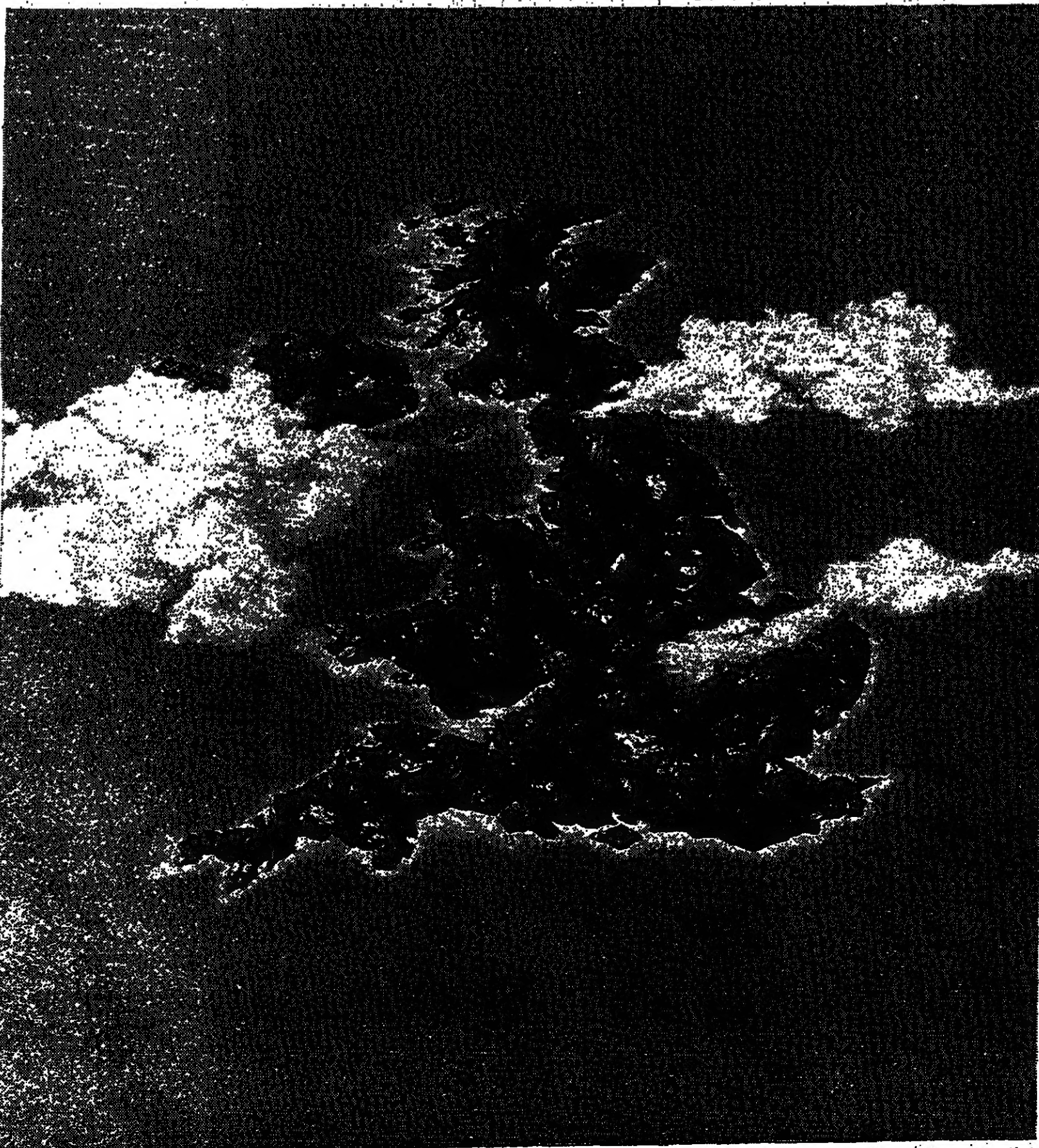
But exporting hashish still seems easy. At Beirut international airport, customs officials dutifully search travellers' suitcases for hashish but hundreds of tonnes of the stuff leave Lebanon by boat every year.

The Egyptians provide one of Lebanon's largest markets. One young man in a Baalbek café, offering generous and free samples to all comers, remarked cynically: "If you get arrested in Lebanon for possession of hashish, it's not because you've been caught. It's because you haven't paid."

And travelling through the rich, dark hashish fields of the Bekaa, not without Lebanese police and troops regularly drive, it is a little difficult to believe that there is not just a bit of corruption somewhere in the body politic. Someone in Beirut must be aware of the 300 or so square miles of hashish-growing territory, with its sleepy growers and slow-moving horses.



Coal: Britain's energy insurance.



Despite new discoveries like the North Sea, availability of oil for industrialised countries is certainly not going to increase, and will, in fact, diminish from now because of uncertainty about the Middle East—by far the biggest source of supply.

However, Britain has coal reserves which, based on present mining techniques and present levels of production, will last for at least another three hundred years; with the improvements in technology that will undoubtedly come during that time, the reserves will last very much longer.

WHERE WILL YOUR COMPANY BE IN 300 YEARS TIME?

There are three words you can read in the newspapers almost any day of the week: Middle East crisis. We'll leave it to you to conjure up pictures of soaring prices, unreliable supplies and increasingly tight stock.

There is now no concrete argument for not installing coal-fired boiler equipment, particularly if your company is planning to be around for some time. Maybe even in 300 years time.

COAL: BE PREPARED TO BE SURPRISED.

There have been some very impressive advances in boiler technology, combustion, as well as methods of coal and ash handling.

It's now possible to operate in excess of 80% thermal efficiency, which makes coal firing both very economic and competitive. It can be completely automatic with the modern coal and ash handling equipment. This permits coal fired boiler houses to be light, airy and clean.

And it's very up-to-date: Over the years extensive research and development programmes have been carried out. The most recent development is fluidised bed combustion.

This technique provides higher heat release rates, which means boiler sizes, and therefore capital costs, may be reduced.

It also means that a wider range of coal can be burned and with combustion taking place at a temperature below the melting point of ash, boiler availability is greatly extended.

COMPANIES THAT CAN SEE BEYOND THE NEXT 20 YEARS.

Many far sighted companies are using coal fired boilers already.

For example, John Sanders, Chief Engineer at Hotpoint, says "We are

experiencing fantastic savings whilst many around us are facing problems with other fuels. We selected coal as our main fuel because we had coal burning experience and we could see problems arising with other fuels."

Hotpoint have installed a completely new boiler house to provide space heating and process steam. The new boiler house and its four multi-fuel boilers are fired by coal. Hotpoint have found it to be economic, modern, efficient and spotlessly clean.

The four new GWB Vekos multi-fuel boilers burn weekly no more than 215/220 tonnes, compared with the four old boilers' 500 tonnes. And the whole system is virtually automatic.

LET US TELL YOU MORE.

The wide range of coal fired boiler plant and equipment is designed to meet every conceivable need, from power generating requirements to small units in commercial buildings. In addition there is a nationwide network of coal distributors who are strategically situated to give advice and provide an efficient service to industry.

If you would like one of our fuel engineers to visit and give you free, expert advice, please contact the NCB Technical Service.

This will include information on the recent government grant scheme which provides up to 25% of the cost of switching from oil to coal-fired boilers.

It's worth contacting us now. So that you can help your company to live later.

Send to: The National Coal Board, Technical Service Branch, Marketing Dept., Hobart House, Grosvenor Place, London SW1X 7EA.

Name
Title
Company
Address

I would like some technical leaflets on modern industrial burning equipment ☐
I would like one of your fuel engineers to visit my company. ☐
We are considering installing new industrial coal fired plant. ☐
Please tell me more about the Government grant scheme ☐

NCB T18/7781D
COAL-BRITAIN'S ENERGY INSURANCE

Vatican is thought to be £17m in the red

From Peter Nichols
Rome, July 13

The new Council of Cardinals established by the ailing Pope to face the problems of the Vatican's finances, ended its first meeting tonight after hearing a report on the "essential data regarding the budget of the Holy See".

So went the official description of an event which is the most important in administrative terms to face the Roman Church since the Pope was seriously wounded on May 13. The Vatican's financial woes, of various kinds, go back long before the present crisis.

The Pope summoned the whole Sacred College, which then numbered 123 cardinals, to the Vatican at the beginning of November 1979, to give him advice, above all, on the Vatican's financial situation.

The meeting attended by 120 cardinals was secret but historic because for the first time the Vatican made public the extent of its budget deficit which then amounted to £8.5m. Unofficially it is estimated that the deficit has doubled in the meantime.

Ironically, the 1979 meeting took place in the same month as the Pope's ill-fated journey to Turkey where his movements were closely supervised as a result of threats to kill him. The menaces were made by Mehmet Ali Agca who is now awaiting trial in a Rome prison for the May 13 attempt on the Pope's life which has left him hospital-bound.

In the meantime, not only has the deficit increased, the Vatican now faces the moral issue of having seen two of its lay financial advisers arrested.

The first was Signor Massimo Spada who was charged with offences concerning the export of capital. Then Signor Luigi Menzies was arrested on the grounds of fraudulently bankrupting a company.

The Pope's illness in itself indirectly raises financial problems. The strength of his pontificate was the popular success of his papacy in terms of money because something on which the Vatican can count to cover a deficit or special expenditure remains the ancient institution of Peter's Pence.

This is a collection made every year throughout the Catholic world on the feast day of St Peter and St Paul. The money goes directly to the Secretariat of State and is not accounted for in the normal budget. Pope John Paul II, in 1978, paid the expenses of the second Vatican Council from this source.

The issue of Peter's Pence need not be strictly tied to the Pope's ability to resume his travels. But a sick Pope less able to appear in public by his doctors is unlikely to attract contributions like a personality who captures the public imagination.

Reports today from Mexico City that the Pope has declined an invitation to revisit the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the most important Latin American centre of popular Marian devotion, is taken as meaning that journeys for this year can be discounted.

The 11 cardinals at today's meeting (there were four absentees) under the chairmanship of Cardinal Casaroli, the Secretary of State, are all non-Italians with the exception of their chairman and resident archbishops.

They are supposed not only to face the present state of the budget but also put forward proposals gathered from the hierarchy throughout the world on how to deal with the question.

The official statement is strictly correct in insisting that they were given data only on the regular budget they will have missed more than just the sum collected in Peter's Pence.

AGREEMENT LACKING ON BELIZE

By David Spanier

The latest round of talks between Britain and Guatemala on the future of Belize failed to reach agreement on all outstanding issues, it was announced yesterday. Britain nevertheless intends to bring Belize, its last colony, to independence by the end of the year, as planned.

The main difficulty, it is generally assumed, lies in defining the rights which Guatemala should enjoy in the use of offshore areas. Under the outline agreement reached in London, Guatemala was to have abandoned its territorial claims in return for various economic benefits but this deal attracted considerable opposition in Belize.

A communiqué issued in New York, where the talks were being held, and London yesterday said that the three ministers—Mr Nicholas Ridley, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, Señor Castillo Valdez, the Guatemalan Foreign Minister, and Mr George Price, the Belizean Premier—"reaffirmed their desire to promote and preserve peace in the region".

MILL DEATHS RISE TO 34

Delhi, July 13.—Hope for survivors dimmed as rescue operations continued for the fourth day at the mill near Surat, in western India, which collapsed last week.

Officials at the site, about 150 miles from Bombay, said the death toll was 34 and that search squads had rescued 105 workers. Between 400 and 700 workers may still be trapped.—AP.

Israel's weapons policy clashes with Washington

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, July 13

Wide differences of opinion between the American and Israeli Governments over the conditions which should govern Israel's use of its American-supplied weapons emerged during a meeting today between Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister, and Mr Robert McFarlane, a senior State Department official.

The meeting was called to discuss ways in which the governments could reach an agreement which would allow America to lift the temporary suspension imposed last month on the delivery of four F16 fighters, one of the types of jet used in the raid on the Baghdad nuclear reactor.

The Israeli delegation, which also included Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Foreign Minister, is understood to have reiterated its strongly held view that all Israeli military operations recently undertaken outside its territory were legitimate acts of self-defence.

Before the meeting began, senior Israeli officials emphasized that Israel would refuse to give any new commitment to limit its use of American-supplied weapons, or to consult with America prior to using them.

Mr Begin said afterwards that the agreement was necessary for the Americans, and not for the Israelis. Both sides had argued about the matter, he added, and the fact that there was no agreed text meant that no agreement had yet been reached.

The extent of the differences between the two governments surprised some diplomatic observers, especially as the Americans were thought to be anxious to resolve the issue of the suspended F16s before the dispatch of a further shipment later this month.

After the failure to find a formula, both sides agreed to hold further talks. The Israeli

delegation was also expected to ask Mr McFarlane to tell Washington of Israel's anxiety to see a quick resumption of the stalled talks on Palestinian autonomy.

Earlier, Mr Philip Habib, America's special envoy, left for Saudi Arabia on the latest stage of his mission to try to find a comprehensive solution to the crisis. Lebanon is understood to have presented Israel with the outline of a complex four-nation plan to end the continuing violence in the country, and strengthen the position of the Lebanese Government.

Only part of the plan is related to the withdrawal of the Syrian missile batteries stationed in the Bekaa Valley. For the Israeli Government this remains the key issue and officials are sceptical about the chances of America achieving the wider solution it is looking for.

But Mr Begin has deliberately refrained from imposing any deadline on the Habib mission, although it was emphasized again last night that it cannot be allowed to continue indefinitely.

□ Paris: Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, said today that Israel has an atomic arsenal of 23 to 25 bombs specifically designed to strike all the Arab capitals, according to a report by the Iraqi news agency, INA, monitored here.

Mr Arafat, who was speaking in Baghdad, said he had precise information about the atomic capacity of Israel, the agency said. He was in the Iraqi capital for the opening session of a conference on the Israeli bombing of the Iraqi nuclear installation in Tammuz on June 7.

He accused the United States of having a role in the attack, saying that Washington had sent specialists to supervise the Israeli preparations in the Negev desert.—AP.

US plans big increase in seaborne cruise missiles

From Nicholas Hirst, Washington, July 13

The United States is planning a sharp increase in its seaborne cruise missile strength to put about 900 of the Tomahawk type in service by 1987, compared with only 88 next year.

This would put the cost of the cruise missile programme up from \$210m (£105m) in 1982 to \$1,500m in 1987.

The programme has already been expanded once by the Reagan Administration. President Carter had planned only 48 of the weapons for 1982. Now defence officials want a five-year buildup which would greatly increase the number of missiles deployed at sea.

By the early 1990s there could be as many as 3,000 to 4,000 sea-based cruise missiles with a further 6,000 to be fired from aircraft.

A medium-range cruise missile with a nuclear warhead could take off from an aircraft carrier more than 1,000 miles from its target.

It is understood the plan to increase the seaborne side of the strike force would need several approvals from Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, and the White House before it went to Congress.

THREAT OF NEW POLL BY BEGIN

From Our Own Correspondent, Jerusalem, July 13

Mr Yitzhak Navon, the President of Israel, today opened a series of private consultations with Knesset faction leaders which by the end of the week is expected to lead to a formal request to Mr Menachem Begin to try to form a new coalition government.

As the meetings started, Mr Begin said in an Israeli radio interview that he would have no hesitation in calling for fresh elections if he had not succeeded in forming a workable coalition during the first 21-day period allowed to him under the law.

The Prime Minister predicted that a new poll would give the Likud more than 48 seats it won this time.

Mr Begin's remarks were seen as an effort to persuade his various potential coalition partners to resolve internal differences and stop the political infighting which is holding up the final stages of the coalition-building.

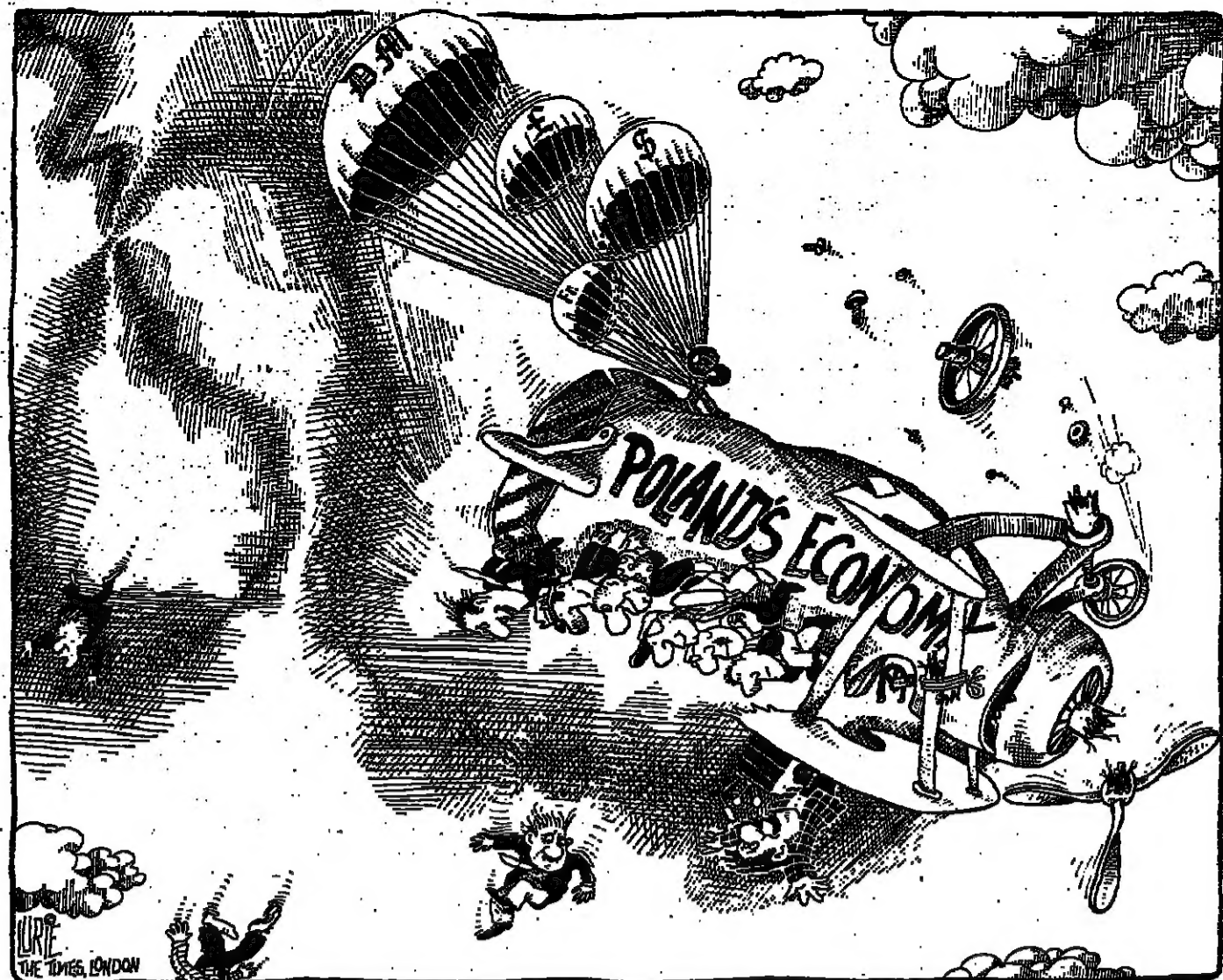
He also pledged not to force members of the Likud block to vote in favour of any proposed amendment in the law covering the controversial question of "who is a Jew". But it was later reported that leaders of the ultra-orthodox Agudat Israel Party will not force a coalition crisis over the issue

and causing a flow of refugees to Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe and Mozambique signed a defence agreement in January largely as a result of the war, which, as well as worrying President Machel, is hampering efforts by Zimbabwe and other states to develop transport routes which bypass South Africa.

The guerrillas are believed to be receiving assistance from South Africa. Zimbabwe has stepped up patrols to prevent guerrillas from crossing the border.

In Parliament recently, Bishop Josiah Dube, who represents the area, urged the Government to establish army camps along



"Welcome to the Polish Communist Congress!"

Moscow hedges its bets

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, July 13

Mr Viktor Grishin, a member of the Soviet Politburo and head of the Moscow city party organization, flew to Warsaw today at the head of the Soviet delegation to the Polish party congress that opens tomorrow.

The decision to send the 66-year-old rather colourless figure to the crucial meeting is seen here as a sign that the Russians intend to treat the congress as though it were a normal gathering of a fraternal party while reserving judgment on its outcome.

Mr Grishin appears to be a compromise choice for both the Russians and the Poles. Though sometimes tipped as a possible successor to President Brezhnev, he is not one of the leading figures in the Politburo, and the Soviet Union is not there for putting its prestige at risk by sending him to a congress that might well adopt decisions it might find unpalatable.

On the other hand, he has made a number of trips to Eastern Europe and in protocol terms could appropriately head the Soviet delegation. He is senior enough for the Poles not to feel deliberately snubbed, but not too closely identified with Soviet ideology or foreign policy.

One of the more visible members of the leadership, such as Mr Mikhail Suslov, the hardline ideologue, or Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Foreign Minister—both of whom have visited Warsaw this year—gone to Warsaw, Mr Grishin would have felt the Russians were trying to dominate the congress.

In the past week the Russians have kept surprisingly quiet about the preparations for a meeting as crucial for them as it is for the Poles. Pravda carried no news about the congress today, and apart from an ambiguously worded television report over the weekend there has been virtually no other dispatch.

This is most unusual, and a clear sign that Moscow will not sure how things will turn out. The Russians made it clear some months ago that they wanted the Poles to postpone the congress, which they fear will put the seal of party approval on all the changes and reforms of the past turbulent year.

By keeping quiet now, playing down the seriousness of the strikes by Polish dock workers and the resulting economic problems, the Russians are hedging their bets.

Until three weeks ago the Soviet press described the situation in Poland in ever more threatening terms, culminating in the warning sent to the Polish party by the Soviet Party's Central Committee.

However, Mr Gromyko's recent visit to Warsaw seems to have reassured many of the conservatives in the Polish leadership were re-elected as delegates, and now see no alternative to letting the congress go ahead in the hope that it will not take any decisions too hard for the Russians to swallow.

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Poland's economic crisis In search of speed and wisdom

From Our Own Correspondent, Warsaw, July 13

The downward spiral leading Poland's economy towards catastrophe has accelerated in recent months. Getting through the party congress which begins in Warsaw today is a necessary step in arresting this progressive deterioration, although the congress is not itself likely to bring concrete economic measures.

Mr Stanislaw Kanis, the party leader, may have used the four months since the originally scheduled date of the congress to forestall the disintegration of the party at the cost of permitting complete economic collapse. Political uncertainty and the economic management inherited from the Giersek regime have inhibited any economic initiatives. The party congress may finally enable the authorities to break through this inertia and immobility, which have hampered their dealings with Solidarity.

Western bankers and the population. They will have to move quickly and wisely, with broad-based support, if whatever political configuration emerges from the congress is to survive the economic disaster.

The scale of this disaster was clear from Prime Minister Jaruzelski's speech to the Sejm on June 12 and has been confirmed by data since then. National income fell 2 per cent in 1979 and 4 per cent more in 1980, a further decline on the order of 15 per cent, is feared for 1981. Industrial production in the first four months of this year was 10 per cent below the same period of 1980, but 18 per cent down in May. The corresponding figures for coal output show reductions of 20 per cent and 28 per cent respectively.

Projections indicate that 31 million tons in 1980 to less than 10 million tons in 1981.

The economy manifests two fundamental imbalances: on the internal market for consumer goods and on external markets with Europe and Western trading partners. Declines in production and imports have been accompanied by a 23 per cent rise in the wage bill for January-May over that period a year ago. The inflationary gap has therefore widened, despite a 20 per cent reduction in investment expenditures. It is estimated that the value of supplies becoming available to households is only 70 per cent of the flow of incomes they would like to spend.

Falling exports and empty shops

It is still politically almost impossible to raise consumer prices, however. So people stock up whenever they find anything to buy. The shops are empty, but the warehouses are full of goods. The government is trying to cut investment expenditure and the production of investment goods, in order to save energy and materials. The wide-ranging discussions since March in the various joint commissions with Solidarity have been useful on economic as well as political issues. The negotiations with Western governments to reschedule officially backed debts coming due in 1981 were concluded successfully.

But the Government has failed to get the coal miners to work more. Western banks have universally delayed rescheduling Poland's debts to them, exacting the already desperate foreign exchange problem. Meanwhile the Government is taking the standard approach to all economic problems: by

reshuffling the economic administration, presumably because it is incapable of doing anything more useful.

The Prime Minister is not an economic expert, and despite recent ministerial changes most of the senior economic officials were deeply involved in the disastrous economic policies of the 1970s. It is hard to believe that they have the collective imagination required now, although they might be able to implement a coherent package of measures if it were presented to them. No such package will be put to the party congress nor can be expected to emerge from it.

Congress 'success' could stop rot

Yet a "successful" party congress could create the necessary conditions for stopping the economic rot and starting the long process of repairing and renewing the economic structure. The congress will receive a report on the origins of the economic crisis and the present state of the economy. This report will undoubtedly improve on the one rejected by the Sejm two months ago, but it will not include detailed proposals for an economic stabilisation programme.

The congress may nevertheless adopt broad positions of principle on the orientation of economic reforms and on workers' self-management, specifically addressing the new phenomenon of spontaneous horizontal coordination of workers' councils and their enterprises. It will not produce detailed proposals for consumer price increases nor for dealing with unemployment or the converse, getting more men down the mines. But if completing the congress appears to promise some medium-run political stability, it could move a serious block of debt rescheduling by the banks.

The psychological effects will extend well beyond the Western banks. Stability in the party will have no direct effect on the economic administration, but it may permit both the party and the Government to make a serious approach to the people on the key economic issues. Even with a central committee elected from below and great turnover in its membership, this is not a democratically representative body. The population must be carried on the main problems, such as consumer price increases. A recent poll showed 28 per cent against any price increases, even if this meant further deterioration of the economy.

Perhaps a referendum could finally translate into action the approval of the 60 per cent who were willing to accept higher prices. The best outcome of the congress would be a party capable of taking such an initiative.

Richard Portes

The author is Professor of Economics in the University of London and author of *The Polish Crisis: Western Economic Policy Options* (London, RITA, 1981).

Oil chief and wife shot dead

New York.—The president of the Atlantic Richfield company, which is about to sell The Quesver, has been shot dead along with his wife at their home in Dallas, Texas, in their 14-year-old son David is being held in connexion with the killings.

Mr William Keeler, aged 53 and his 49-year-old wife Anita were found by their daughter, Barbara, when she arrived for lunch. Mr Keeler, president of Arco Oil and Gas Company, was already dead. Mrs Keeler, lying in a pool of blood, was alleged to have said weakly: "Dad, David, David did it". She died in hospital a few hours later.

Their son had called at the police station three miles away to report the shootings. He was taken to a juvenile detention centre where he spent the night.

Yachtswoman on world trip

Tokyo, July 13.—A British woman and her Japanese husband set sail today with their four-year-old daughter and two Japanese crewmen, on a round-the-world voyage expected to last four years.

Mr Hiroaki Nagae, aged 33, his wife, Jennifer, and their daughter Erika set off in their handcrafted yacht from Tokyo, a central Japanese port, in a 44ft yacht named after the girl. Their first stop is to be Vancouver.—AP.

Naples violence

Rome.—The death of Domenico Russo, aged 41, in a Naples hospital brings the count of killings in and around the city to 103 since the beginning of the year. Most of the murders are ascribed to the Camorra, an organization similar to the Sicilian Mafia.

Lovely prize

Athens.—The Greek International of Love organization, which preaches love as a means of solving world problems, has announced that its £30,000 international love prize will go to Mr Lech, Wales, the Polish Solidarity leader. The prize is financed from an annual donation by an anonymous Greek businessman.

Cholera victims

Amman.—More than 100 new cases of cholera have been officially diagnosed in Jordan during the past 24 hours, bringing the total to 475. Four people are said to have died of cholera since the epidemic broke out in July.

Saudis wooed

Jiddah.—The Philippine Government has asked Saudi Arabia to help mediate in the dispute between Manila and leaders of the five Muslim groups in the southern Philippines. The Riyadh-based Al-Jazirah paper said.

Popular premier

Paris.—M Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister, is currently the most popular politician in France, according to an opinion poll published in the *Le Quotidien*. His popularity rating is 8 per cent ahead of President Mitterrand.

Austrian appeal

Vienna.—Austria has launched another appeal to the United States for help to cope with the problem of Polish refugees. A spokesman said that Austria had once complied with an American request to admit refugees from Vietnam and now expected a similar positive response from Washington.

Housing sit-in

Madrid.—Several hundred people have been staging a sit-in in a Madrid church, claiming to be victims of a giant housing swindle. The protesters said that 3,000 families had signed contracts for flats in the 1970s, but they had never been built.

Iraq shelters

Stockholm.—The Iraqi Government has ordered about 250,000 workers of underground shelters from a Swedish company. They would be used by the civilian population for various activities, the company said.

Rail segregation

Johannesburg.—Apartheid on South African passenger trains is to continue. A railway spokesman denied reports that separate facilities for whites and blacks would be stopped from August 1.

1,200 homeless

Seoul, July 13.—At least 10 people were feared dead and more than 1,200 were made homeless by weekend floods in the southern part of South Korea.

Umtali summit over Mozambique guerrillas

From Stephen Taylor, Salisbury, July 13

Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, met President Samora Machel of Mozambique for talks today in the Zimbabwe border town of Umtali.

In the first meeting between the two since last October, Mr Mugabe was accompanied by Lieutenant-General Sandy MacLean and Lieutenant-General Lookout Masuku, members of the Military Joint High Command.

The subject believed to have figured most prominently in the discussions was the MRM guerrilla movement in Mozambique, which is harassing Frelimo forces in the border region

and causing a flow of refugees to Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe and Mozambique signed a defence agreement in January largely as a result of the war, which, as well as worrying President Machel, is hampering efforts by Zimbabwe and other states to develop transport routes which bypass South Africa.

The guerrillas are believed to be receiving assistance from South Africa. Zimbabwe has stepped up patrols to prevent guerrillas from crossing the border.

In Parliament recently, Bishop Josiah Dube, who represents the area, urged the Government to establish army camps along

the border to prevent crossings by the guerrillas, who, he said, demanded food at gunpoint from local people.

Mozambicans who fled to Zimbabwe last month are still camping near Chipinga, south of Umtali, and some are pressing to be allowed to remain in Zimbabwe. Reports indicate that up to half of about 1,200 refugees who came across in the last few weeks have returned to Mozambique after being visited by Frelimo officials.

The refugees are also likely to have figured in today's talks, as did attempts to increase the capacity of Mozambique's ports.

These efforts have, especially for Zimbabwe, which is having to reduce imports and exports because South Africa has said it can handle only a limited amount of Zimbabwean traffic because it is having difficulty coping with its own drop in.

The Zimbabwean Government announced 10 days ago that supplies of diesel, the country's main fuel, had had to be cut by a fifth. The shortage is expected to last for at least two months and may curtail transport of maize and other crops now being harvested.

The shortage is said to be due to congestion of the railways and recent derailments in South Africa, which held up fuel supplies to Zimbabwe for 10 days.

U.S. BEING VENGEFUL, TASS SAYS

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow, July 13

The Soviet Union today accused the United States of ignoring the lesson of its defeat in Vietnam by trying now to take revenge under the cover of the United Nations.

Condemning the conference that opened today on Cambodia, Tass called it imperialist interference in the internal affairs of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos.

Tass said the United States and China were trying to drive a wedge between the Indo-Chinese countries and their neighbours.

Pol Pot plea at start of Cambodia conference

From Michael Leapman, New York, July 13

Mr Ieng Sary, Foreign Minister in the exiled Pol Pot regime, appealed to the United Nations today to call for the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia, to be followed by elections.

He was addressing a conference on Cambodia summoned by Dr Kurt Waldheim, the Secretary-General. Only 75 nations—fewer than half the United Nations members—are taking part. The Vietnamese are boycotting the conference, as are representatives of the Soviet bloc. Thus there is no

chance that any resolution on the lines suggested by Mr Sary, if approved, would be put into effect.

He said 2,500,000 Cambodians had been massacred by the Vietnamese or had died in families "which the occupiers use as an arm of massacre. The objective is to Vietnamese Cambodia."

He said that if the conference could attain the total withdrawal of Vietnamese troops "it will exercise a profound influence on the solution of similar problems."

—AP.

سكوا من الأصل

Paris and Bonn to press US on dollar rate

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, July 13

President Mitterrand of France and Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, agreed today to entreat President Reagan to curb the fluctuations of the dollar exchange rate at the economic summit in Ottawa next week.

The Chancellor said he and the French President believed that a steady dollar rate was urgently desirable. The two would also seek to improve the harm the high American interest rate policy was doing to European economies.

President Mitterrand and the Chancellor also agreed to seek a common approach to the reform of the EEC budget and agriculture policies and to maintain the European Monetary System.

It was the first of the six-monthly Franco-German consultations since President Mitterrand came to power. Herr Kurt Beck, the West German spokesman, told journalists afterwards that the talks had been very successful; much more so than many people expected, particularly in France.

The atmosphere was formal — "Herr President" and "Monsieur Le Chancelier" — whereas Herr Schmidt and M. Giscard d'Estaing, the former president, had been on first-name terms — but at the same time extremely friendly, Herr Becker said.

While they are unlikely to forge the close friendship that existed between the Chancellor and M. Mitterrand's predecessor, both were evidently anxious to develop an excellent personal relationship.

The decision that the Chancellor should go privately to Paris in the autumn was an expression "of the specially friendly relationship which is developing, or rather is continuing to develop" between the two leaders.

At their joint press conference at the end of the meetings President Mitterrand asked the media to transmit his special greetings to the West German people.

The Franco-German relationship was a privileged friendship — in an interview last week he had dismissed the concept of a Paris-Bonn axis — the friendship was not only a cornerstone, a pillar of the European Community, but was of increasing significance in Western politics.

Most of the conference time was devoted to the Ottawa summit, East-West relations, and European security. The Chancellor received, as expected, valuable support from President Mitterrand for his policy of a military balance of power, although some shades of difference remained.

Herr Becker summed it up, saying that M. Mitterrand had no objections to the Chancellor pressing for the earliest possible East-West negotiations to reduce the number of nuclear missiles. But he put more emphasis on negotiating from a position of strength and on a speedy stationing of Western missiles to balance the Soviet SS-20 and Backfire bombers.

"If anything," he said, "the position of France is tougher than West Germany's." It remains to be seen, however, whether the French President's support will impress the large anti-missile movement in Herr Schmidt's Social Democrat Party. The reaction so far is clear to incredulity, that a Socialist like M. Mitterrand should not share their more pacifist views.

In the last big preparatory talks between the two leaders agreed that the meeting should show Western unity. They were anxious to avoid the impression of a confrontation with the United States on the dollar. Herr Schmidt urged all participants to resist the temptation to pursue nationalistic and egoistic trade, monetary and credit policies.

President Mitterrand explained his economic policies to the Chancellor and when he said later that there were delicate questions to be discussed further he was believed to be referring to the widely differing views on how to combat inflation and unemployment.

The Chancellor expressed understanding for the priority given by President Mitterrand to fighting unemployment, but pointed out that for Bonn the first aim was defeating inflation.

The French President supported the West German case for a limit to net payments by member countries into the EEC budget and agreed with his host that the rate of contribution to the Community should not exceed the present one per cent of value-added tax.

They were also anxious that the increase in spending on agriculture should be slower than the increase in its income.

M. Mitterrand advocated a stronger EEC social policy, which should be taken into account in the coming reforms. But the French doubted whether these could be completed in time for the 1982 budget, while the West Germans consider this necessary.

The two leaders agreed that the proposal by Lord Carrington, the British Foreign Secretary, for a conference on Afghanistan should be developed and if possible discussed with the Soviet Union again, as Herr Becker said since, as Herr Becker said, Moscow did not close all doors to it.

Thorn hope for common strategy on world poor

From Nicholas Hirst, Washington, July 13

Mr. Gaston Thorn, President of the European Commission, is hopeful that the Ottawa summit can devise a common strategy towards the Third World.

He told a luncheon at the National Press Club that he saw no reason why there should be continued confusion with the United States over a common approach to North-South relations.

He said Europe had different relations with the Third World to those held by the United States. Some European countries were less committed to the free market approach than America.

North-South relations would be one of the chief topics at Ottawa, Mr. Thorn said, but economic matters would also play an important part.

The Reagan Administration has constantly fought shy of giving any indication that it would shift its stance on help for the Third World.

To aid programmes were being cut back and officials had emphasized that the Administration believed the best way of improving the economies of less-developed countries was to provide incentives for them to build up their own private enterprise businesses.

Asked about international economics Mr. Thorn said he did not blame the United States for economic recession in Europe. "I wish the United States wholehearted success in its policies," he said. "But quickly please, because we cannot take the medicine too long."



Caught up in his trade: Justo Benitez is sent flying in the Pamplona bull ring but he escaped a goring and went on to kill the bull.

Malaysia expels Soviet diplomats

From M. G. G. Pillai, Kuala Lumpur, July 13

The Malaysian Government today expelled three Soviet diplomats for espionage and said a close KGB agent, Mr. V. P. Romanov, second secretary, Mr. G. I. Stepanov, first secretary and Mr. Z. L. Khaidouline, of the economic section, were given 24 hours to leave, after they had been identified as KGB agents by Tan Sri Ghazali Shafie, the Home Minister.

A Home Ministry statement said the men recruited since early 1979, and that both Datuk Hussein Onn, the Prime Minister, and Datuk Sri

America grants visas for Springboks team

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg, July 13

The Springboks rugby team adopted the attitude that if they were to be kicked out and to have their final practice before embarking on the controversial tour of New Zealand, although the team is due in Auckland on Sunday no details are known about when it will depart and what route it will take.

Trade union opposition to the tour will prevent Air New Zealand flying the team to Auckland from Sydney should the tourists arrive there from Johannesburg aboard a South African Airways flight — the most direct route.

Professor Johan Claassen, the tour manager, said today he would be willing to meet protesters and critics of the tour, depending on what issues they wanted to raise.

If they want to speak to me, then I'll speak to them," he said. "But it all depends on the subject and the issues they want to raise. I won't allow my players to get involved in politics and I'll go so far as to say that I will not allow myself to get involved in politics."

That's not my job."

Professor Claassen, who went as Springbok coach to Australia in 1971 on a tour that was also harassed by demonstrators, said he would draw on that experience to handle whatever problems arose in New Zealand.

"One must admit that protesters, demos, pickets — call them what you will — must have a detrimental effect," he said, "but there is also a positive side to the issue. It pulls us together as a team and there is more cohesion. They force us to keep together all the time."

During the 1969-70 tour of Britain, the South Africans

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Police fire tear gas at miners

From Our Correspondent, Johannesburg, July 13

Riot police fired tear gas today at thousands of black gold miners who went on a rampage of arson and looting over pay deductions.

Trouble started last night at the Anglo American Corporation's President Brand mine near Welkom, in the Orange Free State.

Nearly 7,500 miners from the mine's No. 1 and 2 shafts looted and set fire to dining halls and concession stores, and destroyed several vehicles.

Early today police were called in and used tear gas to disperse the rioters.

An Anglo American official said the trouble appeared to have been caused by misunderstanding over a new death benefit scheme, which is considered by the Chamber of Mines — the mine employers' organization — to be a big improvement.

It involves the compulsory deduction of a token 0.6 per cent of a miner's wages, and will entitle his family, if he dies at work, to the equivalent of two years' wages.

Previously, black miners paid into a voluntary death benefit scheme which entitled their dependants to an ex-gratia payment of 400 rand (about £235), and into a voluntary insurance policy for additional benefits.

The miners were still staying away from work this afternoon and a company spokesman said production from two shafts had been lost. Work at two other shafts was not affected.

Trouble was also reported to have spread to the nearby Harmony mine.

China plans holidays to aid jobless

From David Bonavia, Peking, July 13

The Chinese Communist Party is considering introducing paid annual holidays for workers for the first time, in order to ease unemployment, the party journal Red Flag says.

At present workers have one day off a week and other days are festive, though some are able to take a longer break over the Chinese New Year to visit relatives in distant parts of the country.

An extra 30 million jobs would have to be created by 1985, if full employment is to be achieved, the journal said. But not even the most optimistic officials in China believe that is possible.

Many factories are being closed, or converted to carry out new functions, under the policy of economic readjustment.

Experienced workers are being made redundant, on top of the annual flood of school leavers seeking jobs.

In some places the unemployment problem has led to demonstrations, sit-ins, and riots. This year 10 million people in the urban areas are "waiting for employment", the fashionable euphemism.

The problem has adversely affected productivity in industry, with untrained or unqualified people being pushed into 30 factories so that they can draw wages.

None the less, with more than 50 per cent of its 200 million urban residents favourably placed with many other countries, the journal said.

Socialists hope to put stamp on Bastille Day

From Charles Hangrove, Paris, July 13

President Mitterrand, like M. Giscard d'Estaing before him, wants to put his special stamp on the traditional July 14 celebrations, the first under a Socialist government since 1936.

To symbolize the birth of the "advanced liberal society," his predecessor had transferred the military parade from the Champs Elysees to the Place de la Bastille, where it all began 192 years ago.

The new socialist President has not dared do anything so iconoclastic, but has decreed that the festivities will be "decentralized, popular, and republican", in order to bring the nation and its army closer together.

The festivities are decentralized, because military parades

Part Two of Blind Eye to Murder by Tom Bower

'The trial of the commandant and forty-four of the staff of Belsen... was the first major set-piece war crimes trial and was intended not only to punish the guilty but also to show the German people what had been done in their name, and to provide them with an example of efficient and impartial justice. 'All three ambitions were to be frustrated: the trial immediately exposed the reasons for the eventual failure of the whole programme.'



April, 1945: Staff of Belsen concentration camp taken prisoner by the British 2nd Army, line up in front of the graves of their victims

Unlike the enormous and immediate press and newsreel coverage which followed the American liberation of Buchenwald, the British army kept journalists away from Belsen for some days after its discovery on April 15, 1945, by the 2nd Army.

At the Foreign Office Patrick Dean, then a legal adviser, soon suspected that the typhoid outbreak in the camp was not the real reason for denying access, because the journalists, like the troops, could be inoculated. To his shock, Guy Lambert, Assistant Under Secretary at the War Office, rejected his suggestion of press visits to the area, "and blandly denied that any war crimes had been committed at Belsen."

Worse still, because the British army lacked a war crimes group, both witnesses and criminals were allowed to slip away. Commenting on the situation to Dean, John Ward wrote, "The WO are a contrary-cursed department and I daresay Sir FB [Frederick Bovenschen] would go to pains to prove that there were no war crimes at Belsen to keep out inconvenient visitors." He suggested one way to overcome the War Office's "suspicious shut down at Belsen" would be to use the good services of Colonel Mocatta inside the War Office who is racially much interested [and might break Mr Lambert's tail].

Lambert rejected all the criticisms. The Belsen victims, he told Dean, were not British nationals, therefore the British army was not responsible for detecting their murderers.

It was not, however, so easy for the military actually at Belsen to shrug off any responsibility. Faced with a death toll of at least 70,000 and the visible reality of a concentration camp, officers of the Judge Advocate General's department in Germany felt compelled to investigate and seek out those responsible for the horrors they had personally witnessed.

Rapid action was needed

The drama and urgency of the situation was not, however, felt in London. Rather than wait months for Sir Henry MacGeagh's JAG department there to vet their statements, former inmates lost patience and drifted away. Often these were vital witnesses, but as Major-General Maurice Chilton, the deputy adjutant at Montgomery's headquarters, told MacGeagh, he was officially allowing them to leave rather than endure the inhumanity of waiting near the site of their misery.

In a final and desperate plea to be allowed to reduce the delays and delegate the decision-making to Germany, JAG cabled London: "There is a need for rapid action before there is any weakening of the present determination on the part of the public that war criminals be brought to justice."

In response, Viscount Bridgeman — who had been appointed head of a new division, AG3, of

the Judge Advocate General's department — called a meeting on August 2 to discuss how the obstacles could be removed. MacGeagh immediately attacked Bridgeman's initiative as "astonishing and ill-considered." Declaring that his department's procedures were sacrosanct, he announced that he was taking two weeks' leave and would discuss the matter further on his return.

The trial of the commandant and forty-four of the staff of Belsen finally began on September 17, 1945, at Lüneburg, in the British Zone of Germany. It was the first major set-piece war crimes trial and was intended not only to punish the guilty, but also to show the German people what had been done in their name, and to provide them with an example of efficient and impartial justice.

All three ambitions were to be frustrated: the trial immediately exposed the reasons for the eventual failure of the whole programme.

On JAG's instructions, Josef Kramer, the camp's commandant, and the 44 staff, were charged not with murder, but that they had failed to provide for the inmates' "well-being" and had "ill-treated them" — strange words for those who had seen the newsreel footage of bulldozers pushing emaciated corpses into mass graves.

But it was the pleas by the defence lawyers — all British officers — which caused the greatest offence. Using tactics which were credible at the Old Bailey, but which were tasteless after the revelations of the Nazi's genocide policies, the defence set out to prove that the witnesses, who were survivors of the Holocaust, were liars.

Aggressively they challenged and doubted their evidence, for example by probing whether the victim was male or female — a real problem when the inmate was emaciated and shaven — or to question whether the victim was murdered by a blow to the head or a punch in the stomach.

Worst of all were the closing statements of the defence lawyers — and in particular Major T. Winwood's representing Kramer. According to Winwood, Belsen's roll calls, which sometimes continued for twelve hours, while inmates died of exposure, exhaustion or systematic beatings, were "part of concentration camp life and it was the only way of being able to make out a strength for rations."

About the beatings, Winwood said, "The internees had to be restrained" because food was scarce.

To explain the behaviour of Kramer, a man who had devoted his life since 1934 to the murder of innocents, Winwood said that his misfortune had been that he had dealt with "the dregs of the ghettos of Eastern Europe."

The outraged international protests which followed Winwood's speech were eclipsed by an even greater outburst of anger when the verdicts were announced — eleven sentenced to death and fifteen acquitted.

According to the court, it was not a crime to be simply a member of the concentration camp's staff: there had to be indisputable evidence that the accused had actually harmed somebody.

Guy Lambert, like the rest of his colleagues, was in no way embarrassed by the strength of the international protest. "I am bound to say," he wrote, "that the Army Council is satisfied that the trial was carried out in the best tradition of British

Shawcross joins the manhunt

justice." Ministers in the new Labour government were less satisfied. Clement Attlee, the Prime Minister, wrote to Jack Lawson, the Secretary of State for War, "I am concerned at the delays which have occurred with regard to the prosecution of war criminals particularly in the Belsen trial. It is essential that in BAOR (British Army of the Rhine) the person on whom rests responsibility for the investigation of war crimes and the bringing to trial of their authors, should be officers with drive and energy, and that the high priority be accorded to war crimes matters should be fully understood."

Lawson seems to have remained unperturbed. Lambert and other officials having reassured him that these were just "teething troubles". Other Ministers were not so easily persuaded.

Sir Hartley Shawcross, the Attorney General, and Ernest Bevin, the Foreign Secretary, were (unlike their predecessors), both determined that as many war criminals as possible should be prosecuted. Both realised that their immediate problem was Lawson — a timid and ineffectual trade unionist whom Attlee had appointed as reward for past services rather than because of any recognizable talent.

Shawcross decided to make his own private inquiries. From a friend returning from Germany he heard that while there were 38 Belsen-like concentration camps in the British zone alone, only three were being investigated; only 50 of the estimated 20,000 staff had been arrested.

His informant was mistaken. There were in fact 61 Belsen-like camps in the British Zone. It was indicative of the state of BAOR's war crimes organization and the JAG that forty-three of them had still not been discovered.

The wartime failure of the War Crimes Commission and the reluctance of the War Office to accept its new responsibilities seriously had left 21st Army Group without any organization

appointed to investigate war crimes. It was only after the discovery of Belsen that Montgomery's headquarters belatedly announced the formation of three war crimes investigation teams, each of four men. By then, the American army had already recruited over one hundred men, and they had a smaller population to cover.

British given biggest job

The head of the new British War Crimes Group was charged with instituting the largest manhunt ever known, but Group Captain Tony Somerhough quickly discovered that BAOR headquarters had given his group the lowest priority for manpower and equipment. More than half his time was spent not in organizing the hunt for war criminals, but in fighting to get more staff, transport, desks, typewriters and radios.

To Somerhough's anger, Major-General Maurice Chilton at BAOR headquarters insisted that extra staff could not be provided from Germany, but had to be specially sent by the War Office from Britain, where Chilton knew quite well there was no support for the whole business.

Indeed, at Bridgeman's August 2 meeting, intended to remove any obstacles to the war crimes programme, item 1(c) on the agenda — a request from BAOR for trained investigators — was not even discussed. Yet a most successful Anglo-American manhunt, codenamed "Project Paperclip", had just proved what could be achieved despite the chaos and confusion.

Three thousand handpicked specialists had been trained to find and capture 9,000 of Germany's top scientists and technologists. The "T-force" specialists had been given top priority classification, with authority to commandeer planes, ships, trains, motor transport, finance, even military units if their mission demanded it. They were supervised and directed to their targets by a

230-man Anglo-American mobile headquarters.

Weeks before VE (Victory in Europe) Day, the specialists had been behind enemy lines and brought back not only the scientists, but even their families to interrogation centres. With them came a vast haul from their laboratories and examples of their work. It proved what could be achieved if there was commitment to a policy.

The absence of that commitment was what Shawcross was determined to remedy. With Attlee's agreement, he wrote to Lawson on October 10 that he intended to hold an inter-departmental meeting, to which Lawson himself was not invited.

Shawcross told his colleagues that the War Office's organization "is far too cumbersome and circuitous to achieve its purpose expeditiously." "The work," he wrote, "is in a way police work... I believe that over a year ago the War Crimes Commission itself recommended the establishment in Germany of some such organization, but I cannot find that anything was done."

Shawcross's letter was a direct criticism of Lambert, Bridgeman and Shapcott and when he met them two days later, he did not mince his words. The Cabinet, he said, was seriously concerned about the lack of progress. "There are tens of thousands of Germans responsible for millions of murders. We must set ourselves an absolute minimum of prosecuting at least 10 per cent of those criminals in the British Zone. That is about 2,000 people. I am setting as an irreducible minimum that we try 500 cases by 30 April 1946."

"To achieve that, personnel must be provided as a first priority. Montgomery must be told that it is his responsibility to achieve the 500 case target and to allocate the War Crimes Group the facilities and personnel he needs. JAG should set up six courts to sit simultaneously and if there is any shortage of lawyers, then disperse with lawyers."

"I also think," Shawcross told

Shapcott and MacGeagh, "that the whole operation, including JAG's work, should be centralized in Germany."

A week after the meeting, on 19 October, a cipher telegram was sent to the Commander of British forces in South-East Asia informing him of the 500 case target in his area of command. No telegram went to BAOR. Instead, George Bradshaw, Bridgeman's deputy, went to Bad Oeynhausen in person, taking with him a copy of the minutes of the 12 October meeting.

The result of Bradshaw's mission was curious, to say the least. He had to report to Bridgeman that, in effect, BAOR refused to obey the Cabinet's instructions. Montgomery's headquarters disputed the notion that it was their responsibility to investigate crimes against non-British nationals, since they had not been provided with the necessary additional staff. Nor were they prepared to ask Montgomery to make them available. They rejected outright Shawcross's suggestion that they should disperse with lawyers. In general, BAOR told Bradshaw, there were too many other priorities. On November 3 Bradshaw confirmed the Cabinet's instructions in Cipher 83002 to Bad Oeynhausen. Or at least he apparently did so. In fact the wording of the telegram subtly, but significantly, changed the effect of those orders.

Shawcross had made it perfectly clear at the meeting: He had set a target of 500 cases involving at least 2,000 individuals. But while paragraph one of Bradshaw's telegram read, "The government have decided that early trial of German minor war criminals will be treated as matter of great urgency," paragraph three read, "Target for BAOR is minimum five hundred repeat five hundred individuals will be tried for war crimes by 30 April 1946."

Paragraph five read, "C in C. will be responsible for ensuring the completion of their target number of trials within the stated time limit." Looking at the cipher, it is clear that the word "trials" had been added after the whole cipher had been typed, clearly as an alternative word to "cases".

Although the telegram was given a dispatch number by the War Office, it was allegedly never received by Chilton, to whom it was addressed. But the ensuing dispute about its non-arrival was irrelevant because Bradshaw had after all personally told him of Shawcross's target. Nevertheless, the alleged non-arrival was used as a further excuse for inaction, which was in turn calmly ignored by Bridgeman.

On December 14 Shawcross wrote again to Lawson complaining that only ten cases had so far been tried. "The 500 case target," he wrote, "probably only touches the fringe of the problem." But the rebuke had no effect. Lawson was unable or unwilling to force his department into action.

By the first week of January 1946, only 20 cases involving 91 criminals had been tried, the backlog had considerably increased and Montgomery had still not accepted responsibility

for trying even 500 individuals by the April 30 deadline. Investigations into no fewer than 39 concentration camps had been summarily ended because, according to Bridgeman, "No evidence is at present held to justify investigation."

Shawcross wrote to Attlee on January 17: "The general position seems to be very far from satisfactory. At the present rate the trial of war criminals will go on until the crack of doom. The information I have leaves no doubt that the Commands have completely failed to treat this matter as one of the highest priority, or indeed of any urgency at all."

It was the closest anyone came to putting the blame where it lay, on Montgomery who, like most senior officers, was opposed to the whole idea of war crimes trials and was unprepared to give them any support. His attitude was shared by his successors, Air Marshal Sir Sholto Douglas and General Brian Robertson. Both, towards the end of 1946, were determined to bring the trials to an end as fast as possible, although even the modified 500 people target was to be met only at the end of the year. By then a further 447 cases involving 1,341 people were ready for trial, but not one of the accused had been arrested.

In contrast, 4,200 men and women were being held as suspected war criminals, but lack of proper identification or proper evidence prevented them being brought to trial. Progress, according to Shawcross, was "disappointing." The only "progress" by the end of the year seems to have been the unceremonious closure of AG3; in the view of Brigadier Henry Shapcott of the JAG's department, the removal of this intended co-ordinating body would lead to "smoother running."

Robertson's initial attempt in autumn 1946 to get some commitment for a target date to end the trials was immediately rebuffed by Shawcross and Bevin, but their determined commitment was undermined by the Army in Germany.

It is one of the peculiarities of that postwar period that Allied officers felt an admiration for their German counterparts regardless of their criminal and unilitary activities, so long as the victims were not British or American. According to Montgomery's deputy, General Sir Alec Bishop, "I felt they had just obeyed orders. I felt, 'suppose we had lost the war'."

The dissatisfaction was heightened by rumours, some true, of mishaps at the executions of convicted war criminals. But it was the trial of Field Marshal Kesselring in April 1947 which intensified the anger. Kesselring was accused of ordering the execution of 335 Italians in Rome in March 1944 as a reprisal for the assassination of 33 German policemen.

He had actually signed a confession, and a British court in Venice sentenced him to death. Regardless of the merits of the case, British officers were outraged that someone of such high rank should be held to account for the consequences of his position. Giving their protest credibility, even Churchill protested. He wrote to Attlee, "The process of killing the leaders of the defeated enemy has now exhausted any usefulness it may have had." Kesselring was reprieved.

Thousands of suspects freed

Sympathy for the German generals and opposition to the trials continued to increase in direct proportion to the growing antagonism towards the Russians. Increasingly, Robertson felt that the trials were counterproductive to winning German support against the communists. His next move was to use the excuse of a shortage of supplies and the cold winter to order Somerhough to reduce the number of suspects held as quickly and as drastically as possible. "Operation Flea-combe" resulted in 2,500 suspects being released within eight weeks. In June 1947, the conditions for extradition of suspected war criminals from the British Zone for trial elsewhere were made more stringent.

Arriving in London in November 1947, Robertson expected that there would be no difficulty in persuading the government to set a target date to end extraditions and trials. To his surprise, even to use the cold-blooded murders "Are we to let murderers go free?" The General was temporarily beaten, but undeterred.

Overshadowing his pleas for an end to the investigations and trials, and despite the failure still to reach the 500 case target, was the prospect of a major trial of three German Field Marshals — von Rundstedt, von Brauchitsch and von Manstein.

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Adapted from *Blind Eye to Murder* by Tom Bower, which is to be published by André Deutsch on Thursday at £9.95



Group Captain Somerhough: angry



Sir Hartley Shawcross: determined

Tomorrow:
Dinner for a defeated
field-marshal

THE ARTS

Galleries

Unsettling experience in the landscape of the lost

Bernard Meninsky

Museum of Modern Art, Oxford

Frank Dobson: True and Pure Sculpture

Kettle's Yard, Cambridge

Robert Bevan: Drawings and Watercolours

Anthony d'Offay

It is hard to know what combination of gifts, worldly and unworldly, made for the success of an artist's lifetime. In the case of Bernard Meninsky, like his contemporaries Gertrude and Bomberg, a measure of fame early, and then (more like Bomberg than Gertrude) years of relative obscurity and neglect. His early fame was not difficult to account for: his later obscurity was. When, in 1919, aged 28, he had his major exhibition, success commemorated the following year by a book devoted to his work, it was with a show of Mother-and-Child drawings of exquisite delicacy and tenderness, greeted with an almost audible sigh of relief in a world where young painters from the war were expected to be dangerous Vorticists or something equally hard to take.

The circumstances of that first show possibly provide a clue to what followed. The dealer did very well financially from it, since he had prudently bought all the works outright at a very low price; Meninsky made virtually nothing, and obviously looked to support two young children rather than a job, taken over from Sickert, reaching life drawing at Westminster School of Art. He was to teach, brilliantly, by all accounts, for the rest of his life, and though he was quite prolific painter he exhibited quietly, often in group shows, and at all. As an artist he did not push himself forward, and though he did have his regular supporters, the art world as a whole tended to forget. As someone once remarked of the painter Patrick Hamilton, he fell, as it were, between the brows: his work was not innovative enough to excite controversy, nor was it academic enough to be promoted into worldly success of another kind. He painted from choice or necessity, to please himself.

The fruits of this quiet, single-minded, largely private dedication are to be seen now in an adventurous retrospective at the Oxford Museum of Modern

Meninsky's *The Bathers* (1945-50), on show in the adventurous retrospective in Oxford

Art, until September 6 — the first major show since the Arts Council memorial exhibition shortly after his death in 1959. To begin with, it all seems so quiet, and restrained: fine, unshowy, draughtsmanship, rich, subdued colours, harmony. There is one large painting from his period as a War Artist in 1918; there are still-lives and grey-green explorations of the English landscape (varied occasionally by trips to the South of France and Spain) and portraits, particularly of his children. Then, towards the end, there are the romantic, melancholy paintings of the 1940s, in which the mood of Miltonic pastoral (how suitable that the title of the exhibition is *The Bathers*) takes over with a series of dream-landscapes peopled by lost travellers and heavy-limbed women, a little like the figures in the *Paradise Lost* illustrations of the 1940s, and a little like the figures in the *Paradise Lost* illustrations of the 1940s, and a little like the figures in the *Paradise Lost* illustrations of the 1940s.

But there are cross-currents.

There are many nude drawings which for all their fine control of line and modelling, are in their own discreet way unexpectedly erotic. The landscapes and still-lives pulse with a hidden sense of the force that through the green fuse drives the flower, with a corresponding recognition of the lachrymose return. An unsettling experience; a painter of whom we shall know more.

Frank Dobson belonged to much the same generation as Meninsky (he was in fact five years older) and went through some of the same experiences: Dobson too, for example, was an Official War Artist in the First World War. There is even a curious stylistic coincidence right at the end, when Dobson began drawing, in the 1940s, enormously heavy-limbed women not so dissimilar from Meninsky's obsessive image. But by and large their work and their careers could hardly have been more different: virtually the only important thing they have in common at this point is

the deep neglect into which they both fell after their death. If Oxford has taken the first step in remedying this for Meninsky, Cambridge, not to be outdone, is now performing similar recovery operations on Dobson: the first substantial showing of his work since the Arts Council's memorial show in 1965 at Kettle's Yard until August 9.

For those of us whose main direct knowledge of Dobson comes from the various examples of his work in the Thirties exhibition a couple of years ago, there are many surprises in store. Oddly enough, the opportunity was not taken that time to include any of his more obviously decorative sculptures: nothing between his good, solid, slightly time-worn figures and the more decorative work of Moore, Epstein, and the others of his generation.

In this ambitious retrospective there is one obvious exception to the rule: the famous head of Robert Sitwell, in highly (though alas not recently) polished brass from the Tate. This gives some hint of the smart circles in which Dobson moved during the 1920s, when most of his finest sculpture was done. At that time he came somewhere between Epstein and Gill, both in style and in reputation, and with hindsight we can see him now as an important forerunner of Moore. Perhaps the finest piece in the Cambridge show, the nude rather misleadingly

entitled *Carnegie* (1925-27), also gives the best clue to his elegantly absorbing influence from the East and from contemporary France (it is not readily comparable with the kind of work Bourdelle was doing at the time), it is equally revealing of the nature of his material (note, for instance, the inevitable-looking way the grain of the stone swirls round his breast and can be walked round again and again without ever presenting a bad or uninteresting profile).

Other sculptures in the show, such as *The Man Child* of 1921, are more obviously "modern" in the vein opened up by Gaudier-Brzeska, and most satisfyingly so. But this is probably what Dobson wanted to be rather than what he was: his great problem seems to have been that he was British, and therefore working in a society not yet over-land of sculpture while the tradition of official patronage for more or less academic sculpture was quite breaking down in France. He would have been perfectly at home, loaded with commissions and honours, in England towards the end of the 1920s; he found less and less to do and less and less spirit to do it; for the finest works of his later years (he lived until 1963) he returned to painting and drawing.

Robert Bevan (born 1865) was old enough to be Dobson's and Meninsky's father, and since he died as long ago as 1925, it seems much more distant from us. Unless, that is, you look at his work: then he does not seem distant at all. For, though in general terms he fits in neatly enough with his time, his work is in the Camden Town group, he always had a strength and independence derived from his odd international background. A friend of Augustus Pugin, he was married to a Polish painter and spent quite a lot of time in Poland, and, maybe, the fact that he did not have to depend on art for a living.

The little show of drawings and watercolours at Anthony d'Offay, 9 Dering Street, until August 15, gives a fair idea of his range, though to appreciate him at his best you really have to see his oils. There are subdued studies of peasants from his Pont Aven period, a handful of the dazzling coloured Polish landscapes and some powerfully constructed North London townscapes, their geometry emphasized by their being squared up for transfer to canvas.

Two studies for his painting *Robert Sitwell* (1925) show an unexpected local, English side of his talents. But in general this show, like in their very different ways the Meninsky and the Dobson, indicates that British sculpture of the early years of this century was not necessarily by any means so parochial and cut off from what was happening elsewhere in Europe as it has generally been painted.

John Russell Taylor

Concerts in London

Intimate relations

Amadeus Quartet

Covent Garden

The Royal Opera's current Mozart festival goes beyond the three, and great comic opera, as this page has made clear. One wing of the event involves Sunday evenings with the Amadeus Quartet. They started this week with the two piano quartets, in which Sir William Glock, an admired Mozart pianist before he branched into musical administration, joined Messrs Brainin, Schmidt and Lovett.

Mr Nissel replaced Glock in between, for the so-called "Dissonance" Quartet, in C major. Next Sunday, and the Sunday after, the Amadeus will concentrate on the marvellous string quartets, with Rainer Moog as their second violin.

In the piano quartets of Mozart, as in his chamber music, the quartet, due effect is of a concerto scaled down, the strings generally accompanying the soloist, though emerging on their own more significantly because the form of the first movements, at least, is more complex than in a Mozart concerto.

So it appears in performance, particularly when some noted virtuoso is that supposed soloist. The Amadeus, much chamber musician as his colleagues here, proposed a closer, less overtly brilliant relationship between piano and strings. In the second, I flat major quartet, a sunny, extrovert work, his fleet scales and elegant passages properly dominated, and his crisply articulated rhythm and phrasing were a joy to be savoured.

He nevertheless cultivated a less brilliant range of tone, colour than would a concerto soloist: the essence of the reading was give-and-take, and a warmly expressive corporate sound, even when the piano has the dominant voice. This was more evident, because more inevitable, in the dramatic, introspective G minor quartet, the first but the more magnificent of them.

On another Sunday evening, almost 30 years ago, in (I think) the Haymarket Theatre, I heard Glock and the Amadeus play these two piano quartets. Memory can be unreliable, but I do remember the performances as less happily integrated, the strings obsessed with sensuous tonal refinement, the pianist with evocation of how brilliantly Mozart himself might have played his piano quartets.

By now those performers approach the works differently, more coherently, not without maladjustment, though Glock pointed out metamorphosis in the first coda of the G minor quartet, with a poignancy that we, who heard it, are likely never to forget.

William Mann

RPO/Dorati

Albert Hall

George Bernard Shaw was right. There is a lot to be said for letting Beethoven's Ninth Symphony stand alone in a concert. And if it is prefaced by another symphony, especially as on Sunday, by the affable Eighty, the performers must surely work even harder to recreate a sense of unique occasion, to remind us that they really are nothing quite like this before.

Despite the fact that this concert formed the climax of the Royal Philharmonic's Beethoven Festival with Antal Dorati, it was just this sense of celebration that was missing.

In the Eighth Symphony the orchestra seemed to know only too well what was coming at every turn, and although they were confident and competent enough at each destination, the journey there, the building up of the music, particularly in the first and third movements, lacked a sense of progression, of discovery and delight.

It was that same lack of tension, of fascination in rediscovering how the fabric of a

work is wrought, that emasculated the Ninth Symphony. Too much was taken for granted: the lifting in of the gentle major woodwinds in contrast to the sharp minor exclamations in the first movement, the sense of thrill as the rolling horns catch up with the chasing strings, the second, the yearning of the human voice behind the third.

If Mr Dorati had only felt for the heartbeat, modulated the breathing of the music more, we would have experienced more accurately, too, the magic of that chord change that anticipates and heralds the brave new world of the finale.

On Sunday, we were shown less of its power and glory but, constantly and refreshingly, reminded that it is, above all, an ode to joy. Benjamin Luxon's first entry trumpeted out at last all the world's urgency and excited conviction, the Eton Festival Chorus was unflinching in strength and intonation, while Heather Harper, Alfreda Hodgson and Robert Tear completed a quartet of soloists who sculpted their parts with artistry rare enough to make it seem for once some of the most gloriously inspired and idiomatic vocal music ever written.

Hilary Finch

George Malcolm

Wigmore Hall

Before these happy days of reproduction harpsichords, George Malcolm was rightly regarded as the doyen of that instrument's exponents. As deft with his feet as his fingers, he would submit his listeners to an ever-changing barrage of tone-colours as he determinedly and successfully promoted his cause in the face of an initially sceptical musical establishment.

Now the elegant Gables on which Mr Malcolm normally plays have been superseded by a delicately voiced period-style instrument. We have gleaned more of the secrets of baroque performance practice. And, on the evidence of Saturday night, the recital of Bach, Mr Malcolm has not given the slightest deferential nod to these comparatively recent insights.

In the opening pieces, the 15 Two-Part Inventions, I thought that such things would not matter. The playing of these artful miniatures was endearing, with all those constant changes of colour, but with a felicitous and instinctive touch too. In the E minor Invention Mr Malcolm resorted to a buff stop, which seemed appropriate enough in the circumstances, and the piston-like precision of the F major and smoothly interlocking arpeggios of the A major made them sure winners.

Such an ability to read between the notes as he showed here continued for the most part in the English Suite No 3 in G minor. Yet here, although there was no doubt of Mr Malcolm's feeling for the music, the inflated grandiosity of the Prelude, with a dose of

Stephen Pettitt

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Theatre

St Mark's Gospel

Globe

Time was when Equity refused to allow Alec McCowen to recite *St Mark's Gospel* on Sunday, at the same time allowing the *Two Ronnies* to play at the Palladium. A slightly safer policy now permits him to open his performance on a Sunday afternoon, but he remains a lonely exception.

Of course, the performance is and always will remain an exceptional one. While Equity finally yielded to the biblical source as a reason for allowing the performance, it could be readily have given permission by reason of the artistic experience.

Mr McCowen's feat is now well known. By reciting the gospel of St Mark word by word he has made it appear as a report from a writer of remarkable dramatic skill. Using the spare, vital language of the King James version, he puts a small paperback text on a table, "just in case", and speaks to his audience directly, a messenger with a truly remarkable tale to tell.

The familiarity of the Christian story, and reading of the gospels is not necessarily a preparation for the oral word of Mark's particular narrative. Mr McCowen's memorization of the text frees it from the somnolent inton-

ations of preachers and finds the awesomeness of the story in the plainness of the reporting.

His direct speech emphasizes the witnessing nature of Mark's gospel, the telling of Jesus' life through the events of the ministry and maturity with scant reference to early life or family. A mention of John the Baptist suffices as a preparation for the coming of Jesus and the story begins with Christ's emergence from the wilderness and his first choices of disciples.

Mr McCowen finds humour in the reporting, as well as awe. He recognizes anger in reports of Christ's speech when the disciples have yet again failed to understand his examples, as with the feeding of the multitude with loaves and fishes, or to understand the parables, which he translates explicitly and with frustration.

The voice is not an evangelist's voice, not a voice used for conversion or even in affirmation of personal faith. As Mr McCowen speaks it, the story is a very human report of the miraculous. The establishment of Mr McCowen is both to dramatize the story and remain a reporter, speaking the narrative so its simplicity continues to carry its message, while colouring the spoken word with human expression, making the story live anew.

Ned Chaillet

Music festival

Organ Competition

St Albans

At a time when some music festivals are struggling for survival, the International Organ Festival at St Albans is striding on, its clear identity securing for it a committed following. The focus of St Albans is the organ competition; organists and cathedral choirs also participate in some of the week's other events but the musty parochial smell of the organ loft is banished by the quality of musicianship of invited performers and their enterprising programmes.

While agreeing with the verdict of judges in not awarding first prize on the organ competition this year, I was surprised at the decision to give second prize to David Rowland of Great Britain. His playing of Bach's Trio Sonata No 1 in E flat was fleet and largely accurate, but the expressive potential of suspensions and dissonances was ignored. The judges must have been the surging final pages of his Franck B minor Choral, but otherwise the performance was lacking in rhythmic freedom and dramatic force.

My vote would have gone to the American William Welch

Another festival commission, *A Song of the Incarnation* by Rory Boyle, achieved the effect guaranteed by placing three choirs around the abbey, but beyond this, no discernible purpose. In the *Thurible Requiem*, the choir produced a spine-tingling sound at the climaxes, but in the plainchant-derived sections were, under Christopher Robinson, too declamatory, too inflexible.

Barry Millington

Books



The Queen with the Duke of Edinburgh at the wedding of her Lady-in-waiting, Lady Palmer, and Mr Alexander Abel Smith, 1953

Timeless in no man's land

Lenare

The Art of the Society

Photographer

By Nicholas de Ville and Anthony Haden-Guest

(Allen Lane, £15)

Before the last war British dancers, musicians, hairdressers and photographers were inclined to rechristen themselves with single, sonorous, foreign names. Bassano might well have been an opera singer and Yvonne (Mrs Entwistle) a hairdresser. The practice had a particular advantage for the society photographer: the name could be passed on, or used by several practitioners.

The Lenare studio, started by Leonard Green in the Twenties, was no exception. One "Lenare" could catch a wedding in Yorkshire while a work-alike was bagging a debutante off Bond Street. At their height Lenare employed four photographers and a staff of sixty.

Their rivals were Bassano, Vandyk, Yvonne, Vivienne; but already "real" photographers were emerging: Bertram Park, Dorothy Wilding who did well to net the Queen Mother when she was only a minor royal; and later Cecil Beaton, the first celebrity photographer, as adroit at handling a gossip columnist as his shutter release.

(Miniatures are perhaps another example.) Nadar and Julia Margaret Cameron to name but two, were outstanding portrait photographers using daylight. Nadar's magisterial realism was made possible perhaps because his sitters were unversed in what the new medium could reveal. Seventy years later, portrait photography arrived at an Augustan age, if not photographic decadence. Decadence can be visually interesting, particularly in the hands of a master of illumination and chic like the great Baron de Meyer, whose signature Leonard Green rather feebly imitated. But for the second half of the century, the brush and the retouchers' brush, combined with the instinctive bad taste of the upper-middle-class sitters, led to a natural decline. Flattery was now possible in many different ways. Margaret, Duchess of Argyll, quoted in Anthony Haden-Guest's excellent introduction, disarmingly admits to preferring Lenare and Dorothy Wilding to the more talented Beaton. Perhaps Beaton would have been unhappy photographing Michael for her, not a scary husband but her dog.

What you bought when you sat for Lenare was a certain look destined for the front-page of *Country Life* or the top of the piano. What was wanted was a certain formality, a timelessness. Brides look down, tots put pudgy arms unconsciously round the shoulders of their siblings. Soldiers, naval men and archbishops arrived to be photographed in their formal

headgear, the ethereal lighting establishing that they are indoors not out, but in a diffuse no man's land where it is all right for a man to wear a hat.

Using a soft lens in the enlarger rather than in the camera, and employing a large plate negative so the retouchers could smooth out anything, the studio really got to work after the photograph was taken. But in spite of the vignetting and hand colouring, reality creeps in: the net stockings and mini-skirts of Lucinda Prior-Palmer in 1971, the small ornamental gates worn as earrings by Miss Marjatta Speed, Miss Durnford-Slater's natural beauty, and Lady Cornwallis's lack of it, the novelist Emma Tennant in hat and gloves. And Raine Lagge (Dartmouth/Spencer) at various high points in her career. (The captions remind me of an engaged debutante telling her hairdresser she was "going to be called Mrs Robins Hill" and start with "I".)

But the outstanding characters of the decade who passed through their portals, like *Sonnet* Lady Astor, and Virginia Woolf, seem strangely muted. The plates are well printed and the early work has a period charm. But one cannot be too dissatisfied when the studio is finally closed in 1977 they sold their old negatives for the silver content. The waxy skin and alar lighting of the later period is too near the art of the embalmer for comfort.

Mark Boxer

Television

A tension rooted in ideas

A Year in Poland

BBC1

Tim Sebastian has been reporting the last year's events in Poland and the BBC with exemplary commitment. Far removed from the urbane tradition of the corporation's foreign correspondents, his pugnacious air, fierce delivery and even dimples have made him an image as well as a reporter of the fraught, exhilarating proceedings.

A Year in Poland was a round-up of the story so far. Its power emanated from the use of footage which is too random for news bulletins but which tells the truth by an accumulation of details rather than a single potent picture. So there were shots simply of shoppers in empty shops with subtitles translating their grievances, neatly caught by Sebastian's mention of the government's action in "raising the price of the nothing that was in the shops".

But Lech Walesa was inevitably the star. One sequence showed him alone in a meeting hall, with a close-up of his pipe and slippers nearby, while another had his subtitled harangue of a minister for failing to act on Party corruption. This latter demonstrated the awesome power of the man. "Be serious, minister," he shouted, knowing he had all Poland behind him, and a grey-faced Party hack just shrivelled.

Yet Sebastian also communicated the dangers implicit in Walesa's personality. His answers to key questions sounded complete but left a gulf of unanswered suggestion. His answer, for example, to the issue of what happens next had a ring of political bed-begging, a bad sign at this stage.

But such nuances were drowned by the constant mass singing of the workers celebrating their victory, their hurling of Walesa into the air and the gleeful conviction of the intellectuals that Russian tanks or not, what had been started could not be stopped.

Sebastian's achievement both in this programme and in his reports has been to be quite clearly in the midst of it all, even when talking to camera in an empty street. It is not the empty gimmickry of ducking while the bullets fly of *ITN* is so fond; it is more to do with the edge of tension in his words which arises from ideas rather than battles.

Bryan Appleyard

Caught in the war between them and us

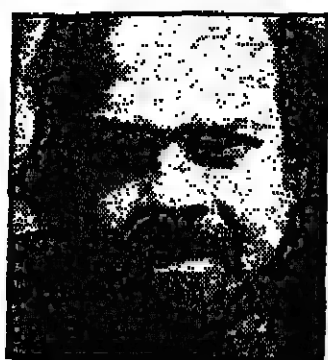
While fires burnt in the streets of Brixton once again last Friday I was given a bizarre lesson—how to make a riot do-it-yourself style—during a 10 minute car ride with a young West Indian.

He claimed to have been one of the organizers of last week's mayhem in Wood Green and his strategy was simply to go around youth clubs in the locality, wait outside the big comprehensive and name a time and place. You could be certain, he said, of a sizable crowd of youngsters who would do anything for a lark.

I followed his advice and went to Downhill's youth club in Tottenham. There I got a tip of an impending riot from Michael, a Greek Cypriot boy of 15. He told me where to meet him and I duly presented myself at the appointed venue.

In Hoe Street, Walthamstow, on Saturday evening, following the fracas in front of Walthamstow Town Hall at midday, a small crowd of West Indian and Asian youths gathered expectantly. Several coach loads of skinheads were seen driving through the town centre. Tension was already at a high pitch due to the presence of droves of policemen in cars, buses and on horse back.

Suddenly, a group of three young white men appeared from nowhere, and were subsequently joined by a fourth female member. They issued instructions, gesticulating



Indian journalist

Sasthi Brata's

personal view

of the problems in reporting riots

with their hands and repeatedly looking at their watches, as several clusters of young men on both sides of the street, and then vanished from view. As if by magic, the young potential rioters dissolved from sight as well.

On that occasion no affray took place. I was made to look like a lemon waiting for a special version of Godot. By 10 in the evening when things were still quiet, a colleague said, "you almost feel tempted to throw a brick and start the whole thing off, so it's over and done with". It was a human enough reaction born of boredom and fatigue. But it was also a response poised dangerously on that razor's

edge between news and views, fact and wish-fulfilment. And it made me ponder about my own role as "reporter".

As a freelancer, I had always been called out from home when racial trouble erupted in any part of London. And since I seem to have visited most headline-grabbing spots in the capital over the past few years, under the aegis of one national newspaper or another, there must have been an assumption in the minds of editors that my tanned pigmentation somehow made me that much more competent in this field.

I had tacitly shared this assumption, until I was rudely shaken out of it in Wood Green and Walthamstow last week. Coloured teenagers drummed it into me that my brown skin and Indian birth provided no immunity in their eyes: my accent, dress and the tools of my trade (a notepad and pen) gave me away as a full blown member of that class and breed against which they had taken up arms. As one would-be rioter put it when I told him I was a journalist: "All the press is fascist anyway. They're all against blacks".

It came home to me that in the war between "them" and "us", it was perilous to be caught in the cross fire. "Moderation" is either an *a priori* virtue if you are looking through "liberal



lenses, or a cowardly vice if you happen to be a crusading leftie, irrespective of what issue you are being "moderate" about.

If you come back with a graphic report of sweat shops in Brick Lane owned by Bangladeshis exploiting fellow Bangladeshis, your story will be spiked by a liberal newspaper because "we are not in business to provide fodder for the National Front" nor "to inflame an already explosive situation". But if the youngsters who tread those sewing machines for less than 40 pence an hour for 10 hours a day take to the streets some two years later, no editor is going to make the connection between the suppression of an earlier story and the explosion of street violence many months later.

On the day Blair Peach died, I had interviewed

Martin Webster and was the only coloured journalist in the hall where the National Front held its meeting. Earlier, I had unsuccessfully argued with the man from Ealing Town Hall to let in the television cameras, as I believed that for every new recruit the NF made, there would be a thousand others who would be repelled by the Nazi salutes and vicious screams of "Kill him! Kill him!" at the mere mention of an Asian name.

Next day when I wrote in the then *Evening Standard* that walking around the streets of Southall the previous night, I felt "remorse" at the bloody devastation of an English town and wondered whether I and my likes were in any way responsible, I was accused by compatriots and "progressive ideologues" of being an apologist for racism.

On Friday last week, TV news bulletins on all three channels carried pictures of the Prime Minister, in the company of "community leaders in Southall", announcing to the nation that "I have not heard one word against the police". Of course she hadn't! But did that mean ordinary residents and the young people of Southall had nothing but warm fraternal feelings for the police?

Not if I was to believe what I had heard the day after the riots. Members of the Southall Youth Movement were quite specific in their allegations. One teenager said that he had seen a local cop in plain clothes get out of one of the coaches which had brought the skinheads into Southall. Mr. Balraj Purewal, the Secretary of the SYM told me on tape that "the police are on their

Police in action against rioters last week:

Name a time and place and you could be certain of a sizeable crowd of youngsters who would do anything for a lark?

side. I saw skinheads and cops fighting together against us".

I make no point about the veracity or otherwise of these remarks. But they do happen to be from eyewitnesses, perhaps even participants in the riot. Yet the nation was informed both by Mrs Thatcher and the media that Southall felt no animosity towards the police.

What we were not told was the fact that the representative, seen on all our screens shaking hands with the Prime Minister, does not and has never lived in Southall, and his connexion with the community is peripheral. And that the other members of the delegation which met Mrs Thatcher are affectionately known as "coconuts", which is a rough colloquial equivalent of "Uncle Tom".

When young people see "strangers", whatever their skin colour, speaking on their behalf, whether it is in Brixton, Southall or Brick Lane, they feel doubly assaulted, first by their enemies, then by the media. If wholly unrepresentative views are widely publicized as the genuine voice of the local community, tempers are inflamed not becalmed.

In one sense, the men who

met Margaret Thatcher may be called the "extremists" because they represent minority opinion, while the young folk at the SYM are the real "moderates" whose angry cries for truth and recognition of their genuine grievances continue to go unheard. As one of them said to me: "You want to know where the petrol bombs came from and how it all started? Well, in a way, the bombs started coming all the way from India and Pakistan, a long time ago. And you will know how it started if you imagine you are a youngster in Southall and all these white fascists come into your town and start beating up your mother and sister, and all the "coconuts" tell you to keep calm and trust the police".

It is plainly desirable for a community to feel no hostility towards the police, but I cannot see how taking the wish for the fact constitutes valid reporting or political sagacity.

Later, an Indian councillor, whose face has also appeared on the box, told me: "I don't want to talk to you. You are from the Establishment; you have no feeling for the local community, and you write things as if you are not one of us. Maybe that is the only way you can get your stuff into print".

It was a brutal accusation which shook me. But the irony was that at the SYM office, a similar sort of explanation was offered for the kind of pitiless councillor held because "if he didn't say that, he wouldn't get on the telly, would he?"

My own dilemma was why I should be expected to be on any side at all, and why my brown skin should bar me from reporting what I saw and heard.

So far the reselection of Labour MPs is not the bogey that many expected...

The token nominee shunted into St Pancras

Mr Jock Campbell first knew he would be appearing before a reselection meeting tonight of the St Pancras North Labour Party when *The Times* telephoned him last week.

Mr Campbell, 53, a strong Benetton and secretary of the London City branch of the Post Office Engineering Workers Union (POEU) was surprised to find he had been shortlisted for the contest. He has not set foot in the constituency, which is the other side of London from his own stamping ground of Bexleyheath, where he is vice-chairman of the local Labour Party. He is not on the official list of Labour candidates.

He was nominated by his own POEU branch, which is affiliated to the St Pancras North Labour Party. He does not even know how many members of that branch are in the local party. In fact, it needs a member of a trade union branch to be a member of a constituency Labour Party for affiliation and have the right to send a delegate to the general management committee (GMC).

There seems little danger, however, that Mr Campbell will topple the sitting MP, Mr Jock Stallard. He himself has no intention of doing so. He says, "I don't think Mr Stallard has anything to fear. If he's done a good job, they should put him back". There is general agreement among local party members that Mr Stallard, who has been MP since 1970 after nearly 20 years as a local councillor, has done a good job. He is widely

praised as a first-class constituency member.

It is hard to avoid the feeling that tonight's will be a rather phoney contest. It comes about because the St Pancras North GMC decided it wanted to adhere to the recommendation of the Labour Party's national executive committee that reselection conferences should not normally have a shortlist of one if other nominations have been received.

Only two sitting MPs rejected

Several other local Labour parties have adhered to the NEC's guidelines and provided similarly token contests. The dire predictions of those who said that reselection would lead to the wholesale ousting of sitting MPs by militant left-wingers have not as yet been borne out. Of the 49 MPs who have so far gone through the process, only two, Mr Eric Ogden in Liverpool, West Derby, and Mr John Sever in Birmingham, Ladywood, have failed to be reselected.

The Labour Party has laid down that reselection must take place between 18 and 36 months after a general election. After deciding that it wanted to go through the process this summer, the St Pancras North GMC gave its affiliated branches two months to nominate candidates. There are two kinds of branches: those made up of local wards and those representing trade unions and other



Jock Campbell: a shortlist surprise.

affiliated groups such as the Co-operative movement.

Only two nominations have been received by the closing date last month. Mr Campbell's name had been put forward by the POEU branch and Mr Stallard's by a number of other affiliated union branches, including the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staff (ASTMS). It was therefore an easy matter for the executive committee of the constituency party to draw up a shortlist when it met last Tuesday and to invite both nominees to the reselection meeting.

St Pancras North is like most Labour constituency parties now going through the reselection process. There are no complaints against the sitting MP and no serious infiltration from the militant left. The party is in a generally healthy state—at the last count there were about 400 paid-up members—and more stable than many others in inner city areas. A significant number of the 58-strong GMC is in a generally healthy state—at the last count there were about 400 paid-up members—and more stable than many others in inner city areas.

It is true that old-timers have noted a drift towards more middle-class domination of the party as the constituency, which stretches from Camden Town to Highgate Hill, has been gentrified.



Jock Stallard: a boundary threat?

Mr Phil Carroll, a maintenance electrician and the party's membership secretary, says: "There do tend to be more professional people, and fewer working-class people like myself. For example, in my ward I have got Jon Snow of ITN and I had Bill Rodgers and his wife before they joined the Social Democrats. There are a fair number of university lecturers, teachers and doctors".

'Very mixed and broadly based'

Certainly the GMC contains more than its fair share of well-known names from the media and national pressure groups. They include Patricia Hewitt, secretary of the National Council for Civil Liberties, who was recently adopted as Labour candidate for Leicester East; Bernard Donoghue, policies editor of *The Times*; and Nicholas Bosanquet, a lecturer at the City University and regular contributor to *New Society*.

However, gentrification does not seem to have had the effect in St Pancras North that it has had in Islington, where the local Labour Party tends to be split between a predominantly old

working-class right and a young, middle-class left. In the words of Mary Wallis Jones, a market researcher and GMC member who has been in the St Pancras North party for 20 years: "We are very mixed and very broadly based but we are also more down to earth than the Hampstead party, which doesn't have Labour representation in Parliament".

Much of the credit for this good atmosphere is given to Mr Stallard, who himself has a working-class background and broadly leftish, though not Bennite, views. The constituency has a long tradition of being left-wing, which may explain why it has not been a target for entryism by the far left.

Some members of the GMC detect a significant shift to the left over the past two years, but others disagree. Mr Giles Taylor, a woolen merchant who has been in the party for 25 years, says: "It has moved right and it has moved left. It was more left 20 years ago than it is now. When Gaiskell was leader some meetings ended in fistfights".

Ironically, even after emerging unscathed from the reselection meeting, as everyone agrees that he will, Mr Stallard will still face a serious threat to his future as an MP. It comes not from the militant left, or the right, but from the Parliamentary Boundary Commissioners, who have recommended that his constituency should be amalgamated with St Pancras South, now held for Labour by Mr Frank Dobson.

If, as seems almost certain, that recommendation is put into effect, Mr Stallard and Mr Dobson are likely to find themselves challenging each other at another reselection meeting for the new constituency next year. Many other MPs are under a similar threat. Altogether, the re-drawing of constituency boundaries is likely to lead to the disappearance of up to 40 Labour seats, the majority of them in depopulated inner city areas.

One of those most at risk is the Bristol South-East constituency of Mr Tony Benn, the architect of reselection as a means of making MPs more accountable to their local parties.

Jan Bradley

No sparks at Sparkbrook

In my constituency (using that admittedly possessive pronoun to describe consanguinity rather than ownership) the reselection story had a happy ending—subject, that is, to the endorsement of the National Executive Committee.

I recalled that important constitutional caveat last Saturday as the chairman of the Sparkbrook Labour Party announced that I was the general committee's choice for prospective parliamentary candidature. Perhaps it was only paranoia that caused me to continue the uncertainty. For it is possible to argue that the story had both a happy beginning and a happy middle.

No one else was nominated; and my claim to retain the candidature had been advanced by all the local branches, five trade unions and the local Labour Club. But none of my comrades and friends felt disposed to treat the formal reselection process as if it were a formality.

The officials of the Sparkbrook constituency—determined to avoid technical errors which might result in their decision being set aside and the whole procedure being started afresh—operated the rules with a ruthless regularity which I found unrelenting. The only exception to the precise propriety was my "introduction" to the committee. "This", they were told, "is Mr Roy Hattersley, the one nominee".

In the hall, sat men and women with whom I drink tea on Friday afternoons and beer on Friday nights. Four of them were parents of my godchildren. When I was presented like a debutante at Queen Victoria's court, they could not choke down a ripple of friendly laughter. I was sent outside while they decided if, having seen me, they wished to proceed with the selection conference. As they did, I delivered a carefully prepared speech.

It was not only natural nervousness that made me determined to take nothing for granted. I expected their endorsement; but it did not seem right to ask for it in a five-minute, impromptu chat. As I prepared the "copious notes" that in the Commons



by Roy Hattersley

are a euphemism for a verbatim text, I realized that familiarity with my audience was a handicap, not a help. Most of them knew every detail of my past 17 political years. All had supported me during the difficult days when my party leadership had disowned my promise to abolish the public schools. I spent two minutes on the record of advice bureaux and personal service, five on the areas of undoubted unanimity and three on policies about which some of them would believe me to be wrong. I wanted them to remember that I supported Nato, the EEC and an incomes policy.

As I wrote out that although I had "naturally emphasized the areas of our agreement but it would be wrong for me to pretend that there are no issues on which my opinions may differ from those of a majority of the delegates to this meeting", I began to wonder why (apart from sentiment) people should confer on me the privilege of being expected to vote for me.

I knew that "self-respect as well as respect for this constituency obliges me not to pretend that I support policies which, in truth, I believe to be wrong". But that does not answer the fundamental question. Neither does "Edmund

Burke's dictum concerning an MP's right to intellectual independence.

The single promise of unfettered judgment used honestly and objectively as the Member—and only the Member—thinks best, was the product of a less educated and more deferential age. In the era of party manifestos and party whips, it is a romantic fiction. On the other hand, the need for the Labour Party willingly to encompass a wide spectrum of socialist opinion is a practical necessity. If the brief majorities on constituency committees attempt to depose MPs with different views or bully them into conformity with temporary prevailing opinions, the Labour Party will fall apart. For us, trust and tolerance are necessities as well as virtues. But they have to be applied in both directions.

A Labour MP who tells his local party to mind its own business is in the wrong business himself. One who tries to argue his case as an alternative interpretation of the socialism in which he and his critics believe, will find most constituency parties more supportive than the newspapers suggest. It was to that theme that I devoted the last five of my allotted 15 minutes.

I admit at once that it was easy for me to lay out the ground rules of tolerance and mutual respect. The Sparkbrook Labour Party (being wholly representative of Sparkbrook itself) throws up no conflicts concerning the rival views of electors and activists. Having experienced two years of Tory government, it takes a practical view about the need to win elections. It is a party whose membership is growing, and most of the new recruits have joined to help secure a Labour victory, not to block it.

In a party like that, even the divisive rigours of mandatory reselection can be carried out without civil war, being declared. In a different kind of party the story would be different. In such a party, reselection is here to stay, thank God for parties like Sparkbrook. The author is Labour MP for Birmingham, Sparkbrook.

Six stars in the running to play Arianna's Callas

A shortlist of six actresses interested in playing Maria Callas in the film version of Arianna Stassinopoulos's biography of the singer has been drawn up in New York. The front runners, I am told, are Anne Bancroft, Irene Papas, the Greek actress, and Jean Lapointe, who has just won a Tony award on Broadway for her role in *Piaf*. The outsiders (too expensive and probably too busy) are Liza Minnelli, Cher and Sophia Loren.

Fitting is scheduled to start in September, but I am not sure how seriously that date is now being taken. Ronald Harwood, who is writing the screenplay, has delivered the first 100 pages of the script but British producer Mark Shivas still has to find a director, and the final decision on the leading lady is unlikely to be taken before then.

Singing ability is not required since the main character's voice will be dubbed for the operatic excerpts. Aristotle Onassis, the dominant man in Callas's life, has not been cast either, but Shivas is optimistic that the Greek Onassis's luxury yacht on which he frequently entertained Winston Churchill. (It was subsequently given to the Greek government by Onassis's daughter.) There will in fact be two Callases in the film: an unknown actress will play Maria in her earlier years. Apparently, hundreds of women in

America have been having their hair styled in the Callas fashion and sending photos to Shivas and Miss Stassinopoulos.

Shivas was initially worried about how to tell the likes of Bancroft and Loren that someone else was needed to play the younger woman. "That's simple," said Harwood. "Just tell them you need someone else to play the fat Callas."

Maxwell sues

Mr Robert Maxwell, the ebullient chief of the British Printing Corporation and of the Pergamon Press, has issued a writ for libel with damages against *The Bookseller*, the usually sedate trade weekly that serves the publishing industry.

Some might say that suing *The Bookseller* is a bit like kicking the umpire, but Mr Maxwell insists that a brief "news item" last month, headed "Pergamon sackings attacked", falsely suggested that his methods as an employer had earned the disapproval of parts of the Labour movement.

Mr David Whitaker, editorial director of *The Bookseller*, says the article was innocuous and neither said nor implied any of the things Mr Maxwell said it did. He says it merely reported the resolutions passed at meetings of ASTMS and the Oxford Labour Party in connexion with a long-standing strike at Pergamon (which has its premises on the outskirts of the city).

Mr Maxwell said yesterday: "They have chosen to rely on nine sacked so-called journalists. I don't mean that in a disparaging way but

THE TIMES DIARY

Bastille Day today so here is a tale of French cunning. (Actually, I mean bloody-mindedness but it's a day for the attempts to particularly cordiale.) Since the war, the French in London have used a Soho pub called The York-Minster, in Dean Street. It was the only pub visited by de Gaulle when he was in exile here

and every Bastille Day you can see Free French survivors shuffling by for a Pernod, wearing their medals. But not unnaturally, the pub became known as The French Pub and if ever you were in Shaftesbury Avenue and asked the way to The York-Minster you would normally get a notvery anglicized slur. Eventually, a few months ago the name was changed officially to The French etc. So what happens? Regulars now call it The York-Minster.

those nine were copy-markers; at *The Times* they would be Natsons members, not in the NUJ. What they say is untrue and *The Bookseller* knows it to be untrue. Mr Whitaker will now have the privilege of proving how reliable, true and accurate their stories are.

"*The Bookseller* has been sniping against me for some time, and now I wish to call a halt. Whitaker has brought it on himself. I have no option but to go to court—unless they want to make a grovelling apology."

Whitaker says that Maxwell has twice threatened action against his newspaper but this is the first time he has moved. "We shall contest the action vigorously," he promises. His family-owned paper, established in 1858, however sober its image, is no stranger to litigation. Among pre-



vious contestants appear such figures as Walter Hinchin and, more recently, Harold Robbins.

of the globe, he won the coveted Order of Lenin in 1966. He has also awarded the Order of the Red Banner and the Order of the October Revolution for successes in battle training and for developing new equipment. And to emphasize the achievements of this nuclear submariner, the Soviet state conferred on him recently the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

Chernavin is also in the good books of the party—he is a candidate member of the party's Central Committee—and a deputy of the Supreme Soviet, so he is clearly destined to take over Russia's top naval command.

Silent salon

The death of Ian Fleming's widow, Ann, announced yesterday, has deprived North Wiltshire of a lively political salon. Frequent visitors to her home at Sevenhampton were Roy Jenkins, Sir Ian Gilmour, Lord Goodman and many other emissaries from London and abroad. The change of gossip was always skilfully and subtly orchestrated by Mrs Fleming herself.

Eyebrow-raising

After my item the other day about the former Bishop of Southwark, the Rt Rev. Murray Stockwood, I now hear that he is about to raise more eyebrows among Anglican backwoodsmen.

In December he will become what is believed to be the first Church

of England bishop to take part in the ordination of a female priest. He also stated that he will not be taking place in Britain is just as well, given that the majority of British clergy are against the ordination of women.

Bishop Stockwood has a personal interest in the coming ceremony, for at Newark, New Jersey, the ordinar, 41-year-old Elizabeth Canham, was a deaconess at St Luke's Church, in Blackheath, which is in the Southwark diocese. She is to become associate director of St David's Episcopal Church in Kinnelon, New Jersey.

Name games

My mention of the more unusual recreations listed in *Who's Who* prompted Richard Berrill, editor of *Who's Who*, to write in with an enchanting list taken from his own publication, the next edition of which is published this month. It is an unashamed attempt to get me to plug the book, but worth it...

John Boulting: "falls off horses". Vanessa Redgrave: "changing the status quo". John Osborne: "critic, Yank and Aussie slugging". Edna O'Brien: "dreaming by day, dancing by night". John Burt Foster: "losing gracefully at tennis". Yvette Chauviré: "collects swans". Bryan Forbes: "avoiding bores". Konosuke Matsushita: "performance of tea ceremony".

Peter Watson

هكذا من الأصلي

LIVERPOOL

Class 3: C Smith,
GEOGRAPHY AND BOTANY
Class 2, division 1: S Nash,
Stores,

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

OXFORD

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

هكذا من الأصل

Robbing Peter
to pay
Paul? page 21

Business News

THE TIMES July 14 1981

America on the
brink of
recession, page 21

Stock markets

FT Index 532.1 up 7.5
FT Gilts 64.61 up 0.03

Sterling

\$ 1.8820 down 115 points
Index 92.9 down 0.4

Dollar

Index 110.1 down 0.4
DM 2.4260 down 167 pts

Gold

\$434.00 down \$4

Money

3 mth sterling 13.4-13.4
3 mth Euro 5 18.1-18.1
6 mth Euro 5 17.4-17.4

IN BRIEF

Pound slips in world markets

The pound lost ground against most currencies on the international money markets yesterday. It dropped 115 points against the dollar to close at \$1.8820. The pound's index against a basket of currencies fell 0.4 to 92.9.

Dealers said that the state of recent economic predictions about the British economy had contributed to sterling's general weakness, but it had not been the chief factor. The comparative low level of Britain's interest rates continued to be the main influence.

The dollar, which had dropped in Far Eastern markets over the weekend, was initially weak, but improved steadily during the day. However, it did not return to its pre-weekend level and closed with a net loss of 167 points against the German mark.

£9m factory for Jarrow

A £9m factory, which may employ 20 people full-time, is to be built at Jarrow, on Tyne-side, by Reims and Hass (UK), a subsidiary of the American chemicals company. The factory, which completed in 1982, will produce Kathon, a biocide which controls bacteria and is used in cooling tower water, paints and cosmetics.

New North Sea system

Installation of a unique oil production system on the North Sea's Fulmar field was completed yesterday. The 210,000 tonne tanker Medora, is permanently moored there to store oil before transshipping to smaller tankers. First oil from the field, operated by Shell UK Exploration on behalf of Shell-Essar and the Gas Council-Amoco group is due next year.

BP boosts equities

Equities gained ground yesterday on the Stock Exchange as the prospects that BP's recent £600m rights issue would be taken up in full continued to grow. Earlier estimates that between 30 per cent and 50 per cent of the 226.8 million new shares would be taken up, had been discounted.

Golden handshakes

A £125,000 golden handshake is proposed for Mr Eric Sosnow, chairman of United City Merchants, which is the subject of an agreed £15m takeover bid by the Arab Asian Bank. It is also proposed that Mrs Sylvia Sosnow and two other directors should receive £7,500 each more than 20 years service to the group.

Factories for Wales

New factories will be completed at the rate of one a day in the current financial year, the Welsh Development Agency announced today. But Mr Ian Gray, managing director, warned a big effort would be required to fill all the factories, and it was inevitable that the proportion of empty factories would rise.

Capital inflow

The amount of foreign capital moving into Australia has shown a massive increase. The country's Bureau of Statistics puts the capital inflow for the year to the end of June at £3,625m compared with £755m for the previous year.

Cocoa agreement

EEC foreign ministers in Brussels have agreed to give conditional support for the provisional application of a new international cocoa agreement. However, neither the Ivory Coast, the world's largest producer, nor the United States, the world's biggest consumer, have given their backing to the agreement, meaning that it has not drawn enough signatures to enter into full application.

Industrial and manufacturing output drop continues

By David Blake

Industrial output fell again in May, dropping by 0.8 per cent to stand 8 per cent below its level of a year ago.

Manufacturing output fell even more, dropping by a full percentage point to stand 10 per cent lower than in May 1980. The manufacturing figures were depressed by the impact of troubles in the car industry. The figures also suggest that output has started to stabilise at a low level.

The index of industrial production in May stood at 98, compared with a 1975 level of 100. Over the three months to the end of May, output was about half a per cent lower than in the previous three months and about 1 per cent lower if the successful oil and gas industries are excluded. Without the benefits of oil and gas, industrial production in May would have been 91 per cent lower than in the same month in 1980.

If North Sea oil and gas are excluded, output is now 11 per cent below its level in 1975, when the previous recession bit deeply into manufacturing.

Over the three months to the end of May, output fell particularly sharply in the brewing and shoe-making industries. But there were gains in metal manufacture (mostly steel) and in the chemical industry. Most sectors showed little change

over the three months to the end of May.

Capital goods are falling more rapidly than other sectors of the economy because investment is starting to suffer from the long recession. There has also been a drop in the output of consumer goods, but components industries recorded a small upturn in output.

Over the first five months of the year, the industrial sector of the economy fluctuated around a level which it touched in the last few months of 1980. Forecasts prepared by the Treasury but not published suggest that manufacturing output may decline further in coming months but that total national output will remain pretty flat.

In the three months to the end of May, output in engineering was 13 per cent below its level in the previous year, while metal manufacture was down by a quarter from its 1979 level.

One bright sector to emerge from the latest figures is the British aerospace industry which has been doing significantly better than anyone realised in recent years. Figures for the industry have been revised upwards, which combined with improvements in the figures for some other industries, led to an upward revision of a half per cent in the estimate for the first quarter.

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CBI to suggest more public spending cuts

By Peter Hill, Industrial Editor

Business leaders tomorrow will suggest ways that the Government can cut current public spending by £3,000m in each of the next four years.

Members of the policy-making council of the Confederation of British Industry tomorrow will consider an interim report from task force that it established earlier this year to compile a dossier, based on a questionnaire sent to thousands of member companies, of where savings could be made.

The CBI sees the reduction in current government spending, both centrally and locally, as necessary in order that funds can be released for capital investment and for lowering taxes.

Yesterday's disappointing official figures on industrial production and the expectation that the economy will remain depressed for months have heightened the CBI's resolve to press the Government to cut its current spending decisively.

Sir Terence Pech, CBI director general, said earlier this year that the failure to cut public spending effectively was a major reason for the country's present predicament. Private industry believes that

it has shouldered most of the burden of the recession by cutting back on investment projects and shedding thousands of workers.

The task force report will be followed by a more detailed study in the autumn.

Sir Terence said yesterday: "The Government must mount a major economy drive to manage with fewer people in Whitehall and at the town halls. It must be seen that they are paid sensibly and that they work more efficiently."

Writing in the latest issue of the *PE Management Review*, he continued: "The Government must accept the same disciplines that other employers have had to face in the marketplace. Manufacturing and construction shed 31 people out of every 1,000 last year, yet only three out of every 1,000 in the public services."

The CBI says government spending on wages, salaries, and other overheads should be cut enough to allow at least £1,500m-£2,000m a year to be invested in such areas as trunk roads, railways and energy.

Profits fall by £16.8m at Rank

Rank Organisation disappointed the stock market with a £16.8m fall in pre-tax interim profits to £36.7m. The results were well below expectations which ranged from £44m to £51m, ahead of the figures—closed 30p lower yesterday at 158p.

Mr Harold Smith, chairman, said that since the end of the last financial year there had been a further deterioration in trading conditions affecting many of the group's activities but no further decline was expected during the remainder of the year. He said the group was seeing some improvement in the United States and Far East but no clear sign of recovery in the United Kingdom.

Much of the downturn in the 28 weeks to May 16 was blamed on currency adjustments which sharply reduced the profit contribution from Rank Xerox. Because the Rank Xerox companies' earnings do not come from North America there was no benefit from the strong dollar, while the strength of sterling against European currencies had depressed earnings.

Mr Smith said that £12m of the Rank Xerox contribution was due to currency movements. The scale of currency adjustments during the rest of the year was unlikely to be so severe.

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SHARE PLAN HITS BNOC BOND IDEA

A new government emphasis on selling about half of the British National Oil Corporation to the public has called into doubt another plan to sell bonds linked to the price of BNOC's North Sea oil.

It is understood that the Government's resolve to sell BNOC shares has hardened in recent weeks. N.M. Rothschild, the merchant bank retained by BNOC last year, has stepped up its preparatory work.

North Sea oil bonds announced last October as a kind of index-linked investment which would raise funds for BNOC, were widely seen as a substitute for selling part of BNOC's equity.

Sale of BNOC's producing assets has been criticized because the rest of the corporation is relatively unprofitable, and the Government would therefore be deprived of a profitable asset. But the Prime Minister and influential Conservative backbenchers have been pressing for the sale.

Financial Editor, page 21



Mr Brittan in Downing Street yesterday.

Mr Brittan on the spending tightrope

By John Whitmore

External financing limits for nationalized industries could not be consistently raised or confidence in the system would be undermined, Mr Leon Brittan, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, told a Commons select committee yesterday.

Mr Brittan said that he did not consider that the Government had yet reached the point where that confidence was endangered—there was a fine balance to be struck in seeking a combination of flexibility and discipline.

Mr Brittan agreed that the economy was not suffering from an excess of aggregate demand at the moment. But he said that a reduction in the rate of inflation was a precondition to the resumption of growth. The fall in the rate of inflation would leave more room for real growth to be accommodated within the Government's financial targets.

Advertising deal restrictive

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

A restrictive agreement on advertising between the City of Peterborough Estate Agents Association and Peterborough-based *Sharnham Newspapers*, is going to be challenged by the Restrictive Practices Court by Mr Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading.

The hitherto secret agreement was placed on the register of restrictive trading agreements yesterday after a complaint from another newspaper to the Office of Fair Trading. Because it was a secret agreement it has now been declared void by Mr Borrie.

Two agreements are involved: a five-year one that ran out last March and a second which began immediately afterwards and was due to run another five years.

The agreements concern advertising in the *Peterborough Classified Standard*, a free distribution weekly newspaper. *Sharnham* also publishes the weekly *Peterborough Standard*. The *Peterborough Evening Telegraph*, part of EMAP provincial newspapers group, also has a weekly free-distribution newspaper.

Because of the agreement, any of the association's 14 members wanting to advertise property in any other publication in effect have to pay for space in the *Peterborough Classified*.

EEC takes hard line on textiles

From Peter Norman, Brussels, July 13

Britain, France and Italy today persuaded the EEC to adopt a harder line on the import of textiles and textiles in the new multilateral negotiations starting tomorrow in Geneva.

The new line emerged at EEC trade ministers' meeting today, which gave the European Commission a mandate to negotiate the renewal of the Multifibre Arrangement.

The ministers' agreement came after several hours of discussions on how the commission should approach the possibility of having to regulate textile and clothing imports into the EEC in the event of falling demand in Europe.

West Germany, Holland and Denmark held out for a liberal approach in the new MFA which is due to begin operating at the beginning of next year.

They advocated a form of words in the mandate which would not call out in explicit terms the possibility of cutting back imports into Europe during the recession.

France, with backing from Britain and Italy, was adamant that the commission should be sent to negotiate aware that special steps would have to be taken in the event of falling EEC demand.

Mr Cecil Parkinson, Britain's Trade Minister, said afterwards that a "recession mechanism" had been written into the minutes of the meeting.

He said it was agreed that the next Multifibre Arrangement should take account of trends in consumption and that global import ceilings should be imposed for the most sensitive textile and clothing products.

He also said that there should be a reassessment where necessary of the sensitivity of products and that, if necessary, the rate of growth of imports from low cost countries should be less than the six per cent per year laid down as principle.

The free trade countries represented at today's meeting added a note to the minutes saying that they saw dangers in the approach that had been adopted.

Mr Parkinson said the discussions also produced a general recognition that those textile producing countries which supply the EEC and which subscribe to free market principles should be given better treatment than those which operate behind high tariff walls.

BL chief urges policing of Japan car sales in Britain

By Clifford Webb, Midland Industrial Correspondent

Sir Michael Edwards, chairman of BL, is so angered by the latest Japanese refusal to accept clearly-defined limits on imports of cars and vans to Britain that he is urging the Government to intervene and police the present voluntary arrangements instead of the trade body, The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT).

A senior BL spokesman said last night: "All we got out of the talks in Japan last week between the SMMT and the Japanese Automotive Manufacturers Association (JAMA) was a statement that a broad understanding had been reached. That may have been true of the problems posed by Japanese imports but it was certainly not true of the solution."



Sir Michael Edwards (left), BL chairman. Angered by Japanese, Mr Ferdinand Beickler, Vauxhall chairman, Mass redundancies expected.

"We understood at the previous meeting between the SMMT and JAMA in Portugal the Japanese had given an undertaking to limit both cars and light commercial vehicles to 11 per cent of the market. Now we learn that the Japanese are insisting that no ceiling was agreed on light commercial vehicles and they will not accept one now."

"It is clear that only direct government involvement will give them any chance of becoming effective."

With cars being kept roughly in line—about 0.5 per cent over the 11 per cent barrier last year—it is easy to see why the Japanese are fighting such a stubborn rear-guard action on light commercials.

From a 2.5 per cent market share in 1979 they reached 12.7 per cent last year and are currently taking more than 17 per cent.

In the important panel van sector, where they compete with BL's Sherpa, they account for nearly one in four of all sales.

Progress of Japanese commercial vehicles at the expense of British-made ones is also worrying union officials at Vauxhall Motors. They expect to be told of the urgent need for more redundancies to stem mounting losses when they meet Mr Ferdinand Beickler, Vauxhall chairman, today. Last night they were forecasting at least 1,000 jobs to go on top of the 5,700 axed since January.

But there may be worse to come. The unions fear that a recent announcement in Detroit by the parent General Motors that it is reorganizing its worldwide truck facilities could see more 'preferences' given to

vehicles produced by its Japanese partner, Isuzu, which is 34 per cent owned. Vauxhall already sells Isuzu pickups in Britain, which carry its Bedford badge.

A union official who will be at today's talks said: "We are very concerned at the effect this increasing use of Japanese trucks and vans could have on jobs at Luton and Dunstable. The big worry is that Isuzu vehicles could replace United Kingdom products in key overseas markets like Nigeria where Bedford is the No 1 truck."

"We intend to question Mr Beickler very closely when he presents his six-monthly assessment of Vauxhall's position and prospects to the unions tomorrow. We want a firm commitment that GM will continue to back Bedford as its main European commercial vehicle producer."

Mobil enters fight in Conoco takeover bid

From Frank Vogt, Washington, July 13

Mobil Corporation is arranging bank loans to make a bid for Conoco in what is now assuredly the largest-scale corporate takeover battle in American history.

News of Mobil's plans came only hours after the Joseph E. Seagram and Sons announcement that it is raising its bid for Conoco. Last week Du Pont topped the original Seagram's offer in a deal that won Conoco's blessing. Now DuPont is considering raising its offer to fend off the Seagram challenge.

Meanwhile, Texaco is believed to be raising up to \$5,500m (about £2,900m) in the Euromarkets in preparation for some acquisitions of its own. Many brokers on Wall Street believe that Conoco, the ninth largest oil company in America, is going to be a Texaco target.

Mobil is second only to Exxon as America's largest oil company and Texaco just trails Mobil in third place. Du Pont is the largest chemicals company in the United States and Joseph E. Seagram and Sons is the US subsidiary of Seagram, of Canada, the world's largest distiller.

A Mobil bid, seems assured, although the company has not yet announced detailed plans. Mr Rawleigh Warner, the company's chairman, said preliminary studies suggest that the United States authorities would not object to a Conoco merger with Mobil on anti-trust grounds. He added that he

knew Conoco and the business it operated. Conoco is a great company with fine resources and excellent management and personnel.

Many Conoco shareholders may find the latest Seagram offer more attractive than that by Du Pont. Seagram, which on June 25 offered \$73 per Conoco share for 41 per cent of the company in a \$2,560m bid, has now offered \$65 per Conoco share for 51 per cent in a \$3,770 bid.

Du Pont offered \$3,000m for 40 per cent of Conoco shares, giving these shares a \$87.50 price, but it offered 1.6 Du Pont shares for each Conoco share for the remaining 60 per cent of the Conoco equity. The exchange, based on the latest Du Pont share price, amounts to about \$75.60 per Conoco share.

To strengthen its grip on its Conoco relationship, Du Pont has rushed ahead to secure all the cash it believes it needs for the bid. The company announced that it had completed negotiations for a \$3,000m loan agreement with a syndicate of 30 banks headed by Chase Manhattan. Chase is believed to be heading a group putting together a major loan package for Texaco.

Seagram has left little doubt now that it is determined to win the battle and has left the door open for it to make still bigger bids. It said it will extend its July 24 offer deadline if there arise any rival bids.

NCB wants new ports for exports

By Rupert Morris

The National Coal Board is discussing with port authorities plans to increase deep-sea facilities in Britain to enable the Board to meet its target of 15 million tonnes of coal for export by 1985.

New ports may be built on the Clyde and the Tyne and existing facilities improved at Leith in Scotland, Workington and Whitehaven in the North-West, Goole and Immingham in Yorkshire and Swansea and Newport in South Wales.

Sir Derek Ezra, NCB Board chairman, has allocated between £20m and £30m for port investment over the next four years, and is hoping to persuade individual port authorities to contribute substantially as well.

In the North-East, two schemes under consideration are the expansion of existing facilities at Jarrow or the creation of a new port at Jarrow Slake. On the Clyde negotiations are under way for the creation of a new port.

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The Board has been able to secure better prices recently thanks to the fall in sterling against the dollar.

East Midland Allied Press Limited

A year of continuing growth

- * Turnover increased from £32.3 million to £39.8 million
- * Record Profits — up 23% at £4,052,000
- * Increased Dividends — total payment 3.5p net per share (2.75p)

From the statement by the Chairman, Mr. Frank Rogers:

The continuing expansion of the business will depend on the growth of the U.K. economy and an improvement in the efficiency of British industry.

We have the financial and human resources to continue with our chosen strategy, both by acquisition and internal growth. Your Directors are confident that the Company's progress will continue.



Copies of the Company's Report & Accounts can be obtained from: The Secretary, EMAP Limited, 8 Herbrand Hill, London EC1R 5US

Frank Rogers

PRICE CHANGES

Rises		Falls	
BP	8p to 295p	Pittington Bros	11p to 326p
Grindlays Hds	9p to 215p	Shell Trans	16p to 365p
J and Secs	13p to 336p	Stock Conv	10p to 370p
Manson Fin	12p to 95p	Sun Life	10p to 319p
Mercantile Hse	25p to 939p	Thorn EMI	22p to 422p
Falls		Powell Dufrenoy	
Frit Sugar	6p to 330p	Rank Org	11p to 253p
K Collins	2p to 13p	Sedley PB	13p to 447p
Guthrie Corp	2p to 125p	Sun Alliance	6p to 890p
Norwich Con	70p to 750p	Vibroplant	10p to 200p

Technology news

X-ray 'detective' traps food pack contaminants

By Bill Johnstone

X-rays are now being used in the food industry to detect foreign bodies trapped during packaging.

The technique, known as Cinel Art, is the result of a four-year development by Peerless Control Systems and is being marketed world-wide by Rank Pullin Controls, part of the Rank Precision Industries Group.

Each packet on the production line is bombarded by mild X-rays for about 40 milliseconds (thousandths of a second). The resulting ray is picked up by a camera, which is then able to build up a picture of the inside of each container.

The units are controlled by a minicomputer into which details such as the density level of the product have been fed. Comparison of the actual with the norm gives an indication that the container is contaminated or the quality unacceptable.

In the past it has been possible to detect metal in many packing processes by the use of electro-magnetic fields.

But the new system of detecting metal contamination can, the makers claim, be used in a wide range of applications using the same basic principle. These include automatic analysis of the fat content and consistency in meat or poultry; consistency of dairy baking and confectionery products; and even the level of filling in sandwich biscuits and soft-centre confectionery.

In the case of the meat scan a histogram of the fat content can be prepared after analysis in the computer. Monitoring yogurt quality is another example, whereby the fruit content in each pack can be measured quickly.

Even minute contaminations resulting from the recycling of containers are easily detected during the 35 recycles normally expected of most types of containers.

The system has a picture store into which a complete photograph of the X-rayed unit can be retained. Normally the contaminant will trigger another mechanism, which will remove it from the line.

A typical system for a four-line production complex will cost about £150,000.

Optical fibre signalling

British Telecom has taken delivery of equipment to be used for the production of fine optical fibres, which could replace copper cable as the most common method of transmitting telecommunication signals.

The system is the result of development over 18 months at the Borehamwood headquarters of Stancell. It has been installed at British Telecom's Martlesham Heath research laboratory and will work in



Technology takes over on the milk round. A Brighton dairy, Cornford, has equipped its salesmen with hand-held computer terminals made by UCSI Microsystems. They are used on the rounds to record changes, such as cancellations and extra purchases, and cash received. The units can handle up to 1,000 different products, all coded separately. On returning from the rounds the terminals are connected to a small Burroughs computer for processing.

conjunction with machinery already there.

The device takes glass about one inch in diameter and in lengths of about three feet, called "preforms", which are processed to produce tiny strands the width of a human hair. The preform is passed through a furnace with an operating temperature of about 2,000 degrees Centigrade. The resultant small fibre is then coated with resin and eventually some form of vinyl for protection. It is then spooled after drawing through a capstan.

The corporation intends to have about 450 kilometres of such fibre cable laid around the United Kingdom by the end of next year.

Fibre optical cabling is expected to revolutionise totally the transmission by cable of telecommunication signals. Its capacity is far greater than that of normal copper. About 2,000 separate signals can be sent down the tiny glass strand.

Most telecommunication users have been experimenting with the potential of the fibre, which has electronic characteristics which allow signals that need a large-frequency spectrum to be transmitted without distortion.

Fibre also has the characteristic of carrying signals for far greater distances without boost-

Bank plan may finance Soviet gas pipeline

From Peter Norman Brussels, July 13

A way may have been found to unblock the stalled negotiations on the biggest East-West trade deal.

According to the *Platow Brief*, a West German economic newsletter appearing in Frankfurt, Deutsche Bank has put forward new proposals on financing a pipeline for natural gas involving several Western countries and the Soviet Union.

The project envisages delivery of 40,000 million cubic metres of gas from the Yamal Peninsula in Northern Siberia along a 5,000-kilometre pipeline supplied mainly by West German firms.

It ran into difficulties earlier this year when, against a background of rising interest rates, the Soviet Union and a German banking consortium were unable to agree on the terms of a 10,000m credit to finance the purchase of pipes and other equipment. There also has been disagreement over the price the Soviets would charge for the gas.

The Deutsche Bank refused today to confirm or deny that it had put forward new financing proposals that reportedly would cost the Soviets about 11 per cent a year. A spokesman for Mannesmann, the main supplier of pipes, said his company knew nothing of the proposals.

In Essen, Ruhrgebiets, which is negotiating to buy the portion of the gas destined for West Germany, said that the talks on the price were still in progress and that the company did not feel that it was under pressure to complete the deal quickly.

Herbert Kurts, the West German Government spokesman, said talks were continuing on the pipeline deal.

DEAL WITH NEW TOWN DENIED

An allegation in *Computing* magazine that Cumbria Development Corporation and Burroughs Machines were involved in a deal for a new town has been strongly denied.

The corporation today issued a statement saying there was no mention of Control Data or any other competitor in the documents when its contract with the Scottish Office and Burroughs was agreed in 1956. It pointed out that Control Data did not exist at that time.

"In all the circumstances, we cannot regard the statement in *Computing* magazine as having any credibility, and we consider that it is up to the magazine to justify its story," the statement said.

A spokesman for the magazine said no specific date had been mentioned in the article, nor had it stated that Control Data or any other similar firm had applied to set up in the new town. "We stick by our story," he added.

Oil companies seek lower Opec prices

By Peter Hill, Industrial Editor

Hard-line oil producers in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) are facing renewed pressure from oil companies to lower their high official prices amid the mushrooming world oil glut.

Saudi Arabia is maintaining output at near-record levels of 10.3 million barrels per day (bpd) and selling at \$32 a barrel—the lowest in Opec—in an effort to force other producers to bring their official prices down.

But reports from the Middle East yesterday suggest that Oman is the latest producer to face renewed pressure to cut posted prices, while over the next few months the leading African producers are likely to cut production.

Oman cut prices to \$36.50 a barrel for the three months to the end of September but, according to the *Middle East*

Economic Survey, is under pressure to make a further reduction to \$34 to \$35. One major Japanese purchaser recently refused to buy at the new lower Omani price but offered \$34.50.

Meanwhile, the magazine forecasts that leading African producers—Nigeria, Libya, Algeria and Gabon—were expected to reduce by more than half their daily production of 5 million bpd earlier this year.

This month, production from the African oil-producing nations is likely to amount to 2.7 million bpd, with experts forecasting a more significant fall next month and in September. Other producers, including Mexico and Dubai, have experienced a falloff in production due to the growing world surplus.

Many countries within Opec believe that demand will improve in the second half of the

year, but the oil company executives see the enormous build-up in stocks as a brake on any significant upturn in demand. Stocks are estimated to be 750m barrels above normal levels, and although so far there is little sign of the producer countries flinching from their policy of maintaining high official price levels, the possibility of talks between Saudi Arabia and the other Opec countries is not ruled out.

The tough policy on pricing is also hitting the companies, and the latest issue of the authoritative *Petroleum Intelligence Weekly* reported yesterday that companies with an equity interest in Libyan and Nigerian oilfields were selling their surplus at discounts of up to \$4 a barrel below the \$40 official level.

CBI asks Heseltine to stop extra rate rise

By Clifford Webb, Midland Industrial Correspondent

Midlands industrialists yesterday appealed to Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, to take immediate action to dissuade the Labour-controlled West Midlands County Council from enforcing an "irresponsible" supplementary rate increase.

In a letter to Mr Heseltine, Mr Chris Walliker, regional chairman of the Confederation of British Industry, pointed out that a planned government ceiling on rate increases would come too late to keep West Midlands firms from having to raise another £30m, resulting in more closures and loss of jobs.

Mr Heseltine has already "fined" the council by cutting £7m from its grant aid because of overspending on the current budget. In anticipation of further "fines" after the introduction of a 14p-in-the-pound supplementary rate—making a 48 per cent increase for the year—the council has already included a possible £47m in grant withdrawals in its latest budget.

Mr Walliker said local redundancies had risen by more than 100,000 in the past year, and currently some 200,000 workers were on short time in the West and East Midlands. Many stable



Heseltine: letterplea

industries were working below 60 per cent of capacity.

He complained that when these and other points were put to county leaders at a recent meeting with the CBI, they were all disregarded in favour of manifesto commitments such as reduced bus fares.

Mr Walliker said that, since legislation could not be enacted in time, "I ask you therefore to consider what additional steps might be taken to dissuade the county council from its intended course of action."

Ad agencies back British Posters

By David Hewson

The proposed scrapping of British Posters, the joint marketing company owned by 10 key poster contractors, may make the medium less competitive against rival media, the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising has warned.

Mrs Sally Oppenheim, Minister for Consumer Affairs, is expected to order the break up of British Posters following a report from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission earlier this month which criticized the company. It found that British Posters, whose members control nearly 80 per cent of United Kingdom poster sites, operated codes of conduct which were likely to have some effect on restricting competition.

The IPA, which represents most of the country's advertising agencies, said it had been critical in the past about some aspects of the British Posters operation, notably in the area of package quality. But it deplored the British Posters members' abandonment of what it said was the most important benefit introduced by the company—pre-selected site packages covering a specific area.

Bulgaria tempts the West with finance

Sofia, July 13—Bulgaria, disappointed by the West's response to its 1980 joint-venture law, has indicated it might go one step further and advance credits to encourage Western investment.

Mr Athanas Guinev, Bulgaria's first deputy minister of foreign trade, said that credits at "less than the United States prime rate" may be extended through the Bulgarian Foreign Trade Bank.

Mr Guinev said that a joint venture could be arranged in as little as two months and he emphasized that Bulgaria would be "flexible".

Western observers attribute the general lack of interest in Bulgaria to the smallness of the economy and to gaps in infrastructure.

Bulgaria's 1980 joint-venture law offers an exceptionally lenient taxation plan with a general rate of 20 per cent and

another 10 per cent on profits repatriated to the West. China, by comparison, levies a flat rate of 33 per cent plus an additional 10 per cent on repatriated profits.

Bulgaria is the world's largest producer of forklift trucks and is currently modernizing engine and rear axle production in this category.

It does not produce any passenger cars but expanding production of utility vehicles.

Business appointments

Sir Gordon Booth joins Hanson board

Sir Gordon Booth has become a director of Hanson Trust.

Mr N. Kruger has joined the board of Lomax.

Mr R. L. Keiller has been named human resources director for the European region of Unilever's Engineering Products Company. He will be based in London.

Mr W. C. Davies has been made chairman of Atkins Brothers (Hosiery) after the retirement of Mr D. Styles, who has been chairman for the past nine years.

Mr Richard P. King and Mr Dennis P. Murphy have been appointed non-executive directors of Condover Investments.

Mr Kenneth W. Cotterill has been named a non-executive director of Farmac's international division from Australia.

Mr Gerry E. Hirst has become managing director of Bliggs and Hill Properties. Mr G. C. Matthews and Mr D. R. Hedges have joined the company as executive surveyors.

Mr Angus Lawson has been made regional director for Dundee region for J. W. Henderson.

Mr A. B. Noble has become finance controller of Booker McConnell.

Mr Derek Sandley, president of the Society of Pension Consultants, has become chairman of the Occupational Pension Schemes Joint Working Group.

Mr Brian H. Pearce has been appointed chairman of Pearce Group Holdings, succeeding Mr. H. G. Pearce who is retiring.

Mr Fred R. Allen and Mr Michael E. Short have become joint managing directors.

Mr J. McNally has been made group director, business development, by FMC. He remains managing director, Agricultural Data-base and becomes chief executive, Lensfield Products. He is also appointed a director of Lensfield Products and Lensfield Research and Development.

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FOREIGN

Restructuring at Pan Am

Financially troubled Pan American World Airways will announce a cost-cutting programme today, which probably will result in substantial service and personnel cutbacks, the Miami Herald has reported.

A company spokesman told the paper that William Waltrip, president of Pan Am's airline division, would announce the restructuring.

A Pan Am official who has been briefed on the realignment told the Herald that the cutbacks would be substantial and would affect south Florida, where the airline has 6,500 employees.

James Arey, Pan Am public relations director, said in New York that the reports of service and personnel cutbacks were incorrect.

Asked about route reductions, he said, "When you do something like this, there can be service adjustment."

Elf bid questioned

International Minerals & Chemical Corporation, said it told United States officials that the proposed takeover of Texasgulf by Societe Nationale Elf Aquitaine may violate United States antitrust laws. An International Minerals spokesman said that Elf may be interested in diverting a large chunk of Texasgulf's fertilizer and fertilizer ingredients to France.

Aid pledge

Mr Alexander Haig, the United States Secretary of State, and his counterparts from Mexico, Venezuela and Canada have said they are willing to funnel aid, trade incentives and investments to Caribbean and Central American nations in an effort to head off social unrest. The officials met in Nassau over the weekend.

Australian deficit

Australia brought in record levels of imports and capital in fiscal 1980-81, while there was only a slight increase in the value of exports, according to preliminary estimates in Canberra. The trade balance showed a deficit of \$2,929m (£123m), compared with a \$2,750m surplus in 1979-80.

Pressure on Oman

Oman faces pressure from customers for lower oil prices. The Middle East Economic Survey said that the price of oil had fallen to \$35.50 a barrel from July 1, the Middle East Economic Survey said.

900 jobs lost at Rollei

More than 900 of almost 4,000 workers at the Rollei Singapore (PTE) plant were to be made redundant today.

China trade total up

China's foreign trade totalled 30,400m yuan (£3,000m) in the first half of 1981, an 18.3 per cent increase over the same period in 1980.

Woodworkers strike

About 36,000 woodworkers went on strike yesterday in British Columbia after 14 hours of negotiations failed to reach a settlement.

\$2.2m loan to Gabon

The European Investment Bank has loaned Gabon some \$2.2m (£1.2m) to develop the production of uranium and hydroelectricity.

Japan-Soviet accord

The Soviet Union has agreed to terms for Japanese credits of \$400m (£210m) that will enable it to purchase 750,000 tonnes of large-diameter steel pipes from four companies here, Nippon Steel said. The Russians will pay 7.7 per cent interest over five years.

Greek shipping strike

Greece's 16,000 ships' engineers began a three-day strike yesterday. The strike has been declared illegal by Greek courts.

Mexico to spend less

Mexico will cut public spending by 4 per cent this year because of the decline in oil revenue, President Jose Lopez Portillo said.

Hiring by Ford

Ford plans to take on 900 workers at its Cologne-Niehl plant to increase production of the Fiesta model.

Car plant study

Toyota motor sales company has completed a feasibility study on an aluminium car parts plant in British Columbia, Canada.

RAS

RIUNIONE ADRIATICA DI SICURTA'

MILAN - ITALY

The Company's Accounts for the year ended December 31, 1980 were approved at its Annual General Meeting held on June 30, 1981 with Mr. Ettore Lelli in the chair. These Accounts mark a significant yardstick on which the company's future performance can be measured, as they provide the first combined figures of both Riunione Adriatica di Sicurtà and L'Assicuratrice Italiana following the merger of the two subsidiaries into RAS.

Results achieved in the Company's various lines of business are reviewed in detail in the Directors' Report.

Overall premium income from direct insurances amounted to Lit. 831.9 bn. Of this total, Lit. 459.7 bn. was attributable to direct premiums written in Italy, where volume rose by 19.3% in the individual life account, 20% in the Fire Account, 24.4% in the Motor Liability Account, 34% in the General Motor Account, 20.6% in the Personal Accident Account, 24% in the General Liability Account, and 21% in the Theft Account.

Loss ratios were maintained at acceptable levels in virtually all the Company's principal lines.

Proposals were adopted to pay a dividend of Lit. 1,400 per share (1979: Lit. 1,200), and also for a scrip issue of Unione Subalpina di Assicurazioni shares to be allotted to all RAS's existing shareholders to mark the special occasion of the merger.

Elections were also made to the Statutory Audit Committee, on the expiry of its three-year term of office; while Lord Thornercroft was formally elected to the Board following his earlier co-option as a Director.

The dividend is payable as from July 21, 1981 and the scrip stock will also be allotted as from that date.

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACCOUNTS (A) RAS ONLY, DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN BRANCH OFFICES

	1980
Premium Income	374,688,168
Investment Income	43,728,816
Claims, Maturities and other Benefits paid	206,921,383
Insurance Reserves, Non-Life Branch	307,877,129
Insurance Reserves, Life Branch	259,535,339
Life Sums assured	1,936,376,026
Share Capital	9,727,539
General Reserves	115,386,366
Profit for the year	2,089,626

PREMIUM INCOME OF THE RAS GROUP (ITALY AND ABROAD)

Billion Lire	
1,800	
1,700	
1,600	
1,500	
1,400	
1,300	
1,200	
1,100	
1,000	
1976	1977
1978	1979
1980	

SALES OF THE RAS GROUP

Premium income breakdown in 1980 (in £)

RAS (in Italy and abroad)	374,688,168
Other Italian Group Companies	58,849,467
Foreign Group Companies	364,045,157
Total premiums	797,582,792

RAS Group, Life Business	4,043,039,951
Total Sums assured	£ 4,043,039,951

INTERNATIONAL TIMBER:

Financial Highlights for the year ended 28th March 1981

Sales	£188,828,000
Trading profit	£2,933,000
Profit before taxation	£1,114,000
Profit after tax & extdy. items	£9,365,000
Ordinary capital & reserves	£70,377,000

*In anticipation of the recession, with the consequent fall in profit, capital expenditure generally has been reduced to necessary replacement. However, some £2 million was spent in expanding the profitable Merchants chain.

*We have maintained and increased the strength of the balance sheet. Total borrowing as a proportion of Shareholders' Equity has been reduced to 30% compared with 33% last year and 50% the year before.

*It appears likely that it will be in 1982 before we have a sustained increase in the value of our investments. We are well placed to serve all the developing requirements of our customers.



INTERNATIONAL TIMBER

*Change in latest 3 months over previous 3 months

-0.7

-0.7

-0.7

-0.7

-0.7

-0.7

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Currency switchback at Rank

Adverse currency movements have played havoc with Rank's interim figures. The all-important profit contribution from Rank Xerox was down by £14.2m to £39.3m, with all but £1m of the downturn accounted for by changes in exchange rates. The weakness of sterling towards the end of the half-year against the United States dollar has also contributed to the £3.2m rise in interest charges to £14.1m, with high US and Australian interest rates which affected a considerable part of Rank's debt.

But while the currency fluctuations have been a major cause of the unexpectedly large drop in pretax profits from £53.5m to £36.7m, Rank has still managed to discontinue on a number of other counts. Trading profits from the subsidiaries have risen from £5.6m to £7.0m, but this is despite the fact that the earlier period bore losses of perhaps £3m from the television and radio manufacturing activities, and from the film production side which have all been closed. So the underlying trend from the continuing operations has been downwards.

The Australian industrial and consumer products operations, where Rank was expecting further improvement this year, have evidently suffered badly from an industrial dispute in the wake of a plant closure. Meanwhile in the United Kingdom the hotels side seems to have done worse, while the industrial activities have been suffering from the recession.

Currencies should be more favourable to Rank during the second half, although Rank Xerox is largely affected by the rate of sterling against European currencies where there has been precious little relief so far. Full-year profits, though, will probably be down from £111m to around £95m. Down 10p yesterday to 158p, Rank yields 9.8 per cent on an unchanged dividend payment. This should be broadly covered by dividends from Rank Xerox, which alleviates any worries about the shortfall of current cost earnings.

investors, so that, if traded, they would pass through the Eurobond clearing systems. Further, the month in question was one in which, for currency reasons, investors were moving out of sterling instruments into dollars. To a degree at least this would be reflected in the Euroclear figures.

The first half of this year is in any case a poor guide to the true strength of the Deutschmark sector. For much of the time it has been effectively closed thanks to a weak currency, rising interest rates and a policy of discouraging capital exports. On a longer-term basis there is no doubt that the foreign Deutschmark sector has much greater depth than its sterling counterpart.

The ending of exchange controls has undoubtedly encouraged much more arbitrage between foreign and domestic securities, with the burgeoning building market playing an increasing role. But the true perspective lies in the continuing dominance of the dollar sector as a trading medium. Euroclear's dollar turnover accounted for \$84,000m out of a total so far this year of \$93,000m.

Understandable as it is that after two false starts the Government is anxious to push ahead with plans to sell part of the British National Oil Corporation. But such a sale presents some formidable problems, not the least of which is the present reluctance of investors to put up money for oil stocks. Indeed, it is possible that the Government has left it so late that a sale of say half of BNOC will raise noticeably less than if the matter had been handled speedily.

The key will obviously be the state of the oil market. Prices have responded to the industrial depression and do not look like recovering until the world economy picks up or — less probably — Opec can really agree on production sharing and cuts. The chances are that when the Government comes to sell BNOC's producing assets, perhaps next spring, the oil market will still be unimpaired.

Difficulties with British Airways, and the very fact that the Chancellor has been obliged to reassert the Government's commitment to "privatization", imply that the price and terms of a BNOC offer will have to be fixed at the last minute. The Government could then be faced with the double embarrassment of not realizing enough to make more than a small dent in the PSBR, while leaving itself with the largely unprofitable parts of BNOC.

Another imponderable will be the proposed North Sea bonds, launched nine months ago only to subside into obscurity. How can bonds remain linked to revenue from BNOC's producing North Sea assets, when it is precisely these assets which the legislation allows the Government to sell?

Ratners

Sales under pressure

Jewellers suffered from recession just as severely as other retailers, and last year the problem was made worse by the recession in the price of gold. After a short-lived jump in demand as consumers tried to oust the bullion price, jewellers were left to cope with escalating costs. In the case of Ratners, the third largest chain, these rose between 35 and 45 per cent. H Samuel reported a 30 per cent slide in pretax profits in its year to January, but Ratners disappointed the market yesterday with a 35 per cent drop in pretax profits to £2.2m after a 21 per cent drop in interim profits. Hopes of better things were based as much as anything on a fine record in 1979-80 profits were only £155,000, and £1m as recently as 1975. Inflation-adjusted, the past year's pre-tax profits fell to £1.46m. Jewellers' current cost profits tend to suffer more than those of other retailers because of their high stocks, which turn over slowly.

Ratners claims to have held its market share, but the jewelry sector is so fragmented that the group has only around 3 1/2 per cent of total sales, and it has also spent heavily on refurbishing old branches and opening new ones. For both groups, the second half is the key period. Ratners stresses that it does not sell jewelry as an investment, which is as well because customers are becoming more aware of the lack of investment attraction in jewelry. Profits should recover gently to say, £2.5m this year, but expansion costs money as last year's rise in interest charges demonstrated.

The shares slipped 3p to 50p yesterday but look better value than H Samuel which has a stake of almost a fifth in the smaller group.

Mr Prior's £1,000m 'young unemployed' package goes to Cabinet committee today. Job schemes — robbing Peter to pay Paul?

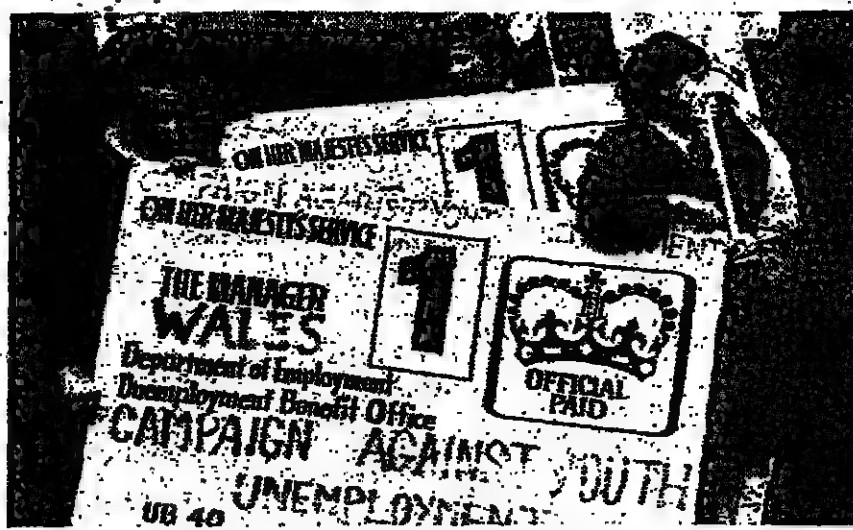
The £1,000m package of measures which Mr James Prior, the Secretary of State for Employment, intends to put to Cabinet to take all school leavers out of the job queue by 1983 is an understandable response to the home prospects for youth unemployment over the next few years. The number of school leavers who will not have found a job by the Christmas of the year in which they leave is expected to rise to nearly half a million by the end of 1983, more than double the 1980 total, and equivalent to roughly two in every three leavers.

Yet there are dangers that Mr Prior's initiative, and the mounting calls by voluntary groups, MPs and others for some kind of national non-military service or community service programme for young people, will divert attention from the increasingly grim outlook for joblessness among adults.

Indeed, there are fears that the £464m Temporary Short Time Working Compensation Scheme, which subsidizes 700,000 people on short-time to avoid redundancies, will be axed to help pay for the school leaver package. Other special schemes could also be at risk.

The table lists all special Employment and training measures now run by the Department of Employment and the Manpower Services Commission. It shows the numbers covered now and a year ago and the overall costs of each programme for 1980-81 and 1981-82. In total, the measures are estimated to have taken some 305,000 people off the unemployment count in May. This takes into account the fact that not all those out of work register and that not all those in the Temporary Short Time Working Compensation Scheme would be made redundant if the subsidy was withdrawn.

The 1981-82 costings may yet be bumped up further. The MSC has told the Department of Employment that it needs an extra £29m this year to finance another 100,000 places in the Youth Opportunities Programme (YOP) on top of the 440,000 already planned, if it is to fulfil its present commitments. These



Young people demonstrate against unemployment: programmes to help school-leavers may be stepped up.

are to provide a place for every school leaver still unemployed by Christmas and for other 16 and 17-year-olds out of work for more than six months. This commitment alone will prove increasingly expensive. Mr Prior of course wants to go further, by ensuring that places are available as soon as youngsters leave school for those without a job or further education to go to.

His £1,000m package would represent a near quadrupling of the present cost of the YOP. Yet government plans envisage a 28 per cent fall in spending on employment services of all kinds between 1981-82 and 1983-84 at a time when virtually all economic forecasters are predicting inexorably rising unemployment to well above three million.

Unless the Government is prepared to depart radically from its overall spending plans the chances are that

other employment programmes will be sacrificed to make way for extra spending on youth unemployment.

That joblessness among youngsters has reached explosive proportions is surely no longer in doubt after the disturbances of Brixton, Toxteth and Moss Side. In January 1 in 5 under the age of 19 was registered as unemployed, accounting for a fifth of all those out of work.

By the end of 1983 only 40 per cent of the labour force aged under 18 will be in employment, compared with 70 per cent in 1980; while over 40 per cent will have had no experience of "employment", the MSC predicts in its latest Labour Market Quarterly Report.

But there must be doubts over whether the YOP, or the "son of YOP", can cope with the enormous numbers involved. In its brief three-year life the programme has already tripled in size. In 1978-79 it provided 162,000 places and catered for 1 in 8 school leavers. This year it will provide 440,000 places (540,000 places if the MSC has its way) and cater for nearly 1 in 7 leavers.

The MSC is now having to find almost 10,000 new places a week to provide worthwhile work experience and useful training — equivalent to creating a firm the size of Hoover every week. Mr Prior's plan could mean doubling that number.

As it is, there have been persistent complaints that many placements provide "make-work" of little value and no real training; and that unscrupulous employers have exploited the YOP by avoid recruiting permanent staff. Expansion will make vetting all the more difficult.

There is also the question of what happens to youngsters when they finish their placements, which last an average of six months or so. Some are already coming round for their second YOP spell.

In autumn, 1979, 7 out of 10 YOP "graduates" found jobs afterwards. A few months later the number was down to 6 in 10. By the end of last year it was fewer than 3 in 10. But supporters of the YOP remain committed and enthusiastic.

"I don't think anyone would have given these youngsters a chance without the programme", says Mrs

Mary Matthews, company secretary of a shopping firm near Doncaster, which employs 23 permanent staff and has been taking boys and girls on work experience placements since the Youth Opportunities Programme started.

Of the other special employment schemes Community Industry, which is run under the auspices of the National Association of Youth Clubs, also caters for 16 and 17-year-olds in areas of high unemployment or the inner cities. They are paid the going rate for jobs intended to benefit the community, like painting and decorating, landscaping and building renovation.

The remaining measures, the Temporary Short Time Working Compensation Scheme, the Job Release Scheme and the Community Enterprise Programme (CEP), all aim to help adults, the first two permanently.

Factor Council has 19 people on projects at present — everything from clearing estates of rubbish and working on archaeological finds. And it has put in for projects ranging from masonry and landscaping to care for the elderly and mobile theatre.

Compared with the resources available for young people unemployed adults get a pretty raw deal, with only a third as much being spent on the CEP as on the YOP. Yet the MSC estimates that by the beginning of 1983 nearly a million people will have been out of work for more than a year, close to 1 in 3 of the unemployed total, compared with under 1 in 5 in January, 1981. And the number of long-term unemployed will rise on rising unemployment after the total starts to level off.

The Job Release Scheme — under which workers nearing retirement get a weekly allowance if they make way for someone unemployed — has been little used, mainly because workers do not want to or cannot afford to retire early. And the TSWCS, which is due to be run down, has mostly been used by employers, particularly in manufacturing, such as textiles and engineering, who believed that their problems were temporary. With the recession stretching out into the future there must be anxiety over redundancies which will follow removal of the subsidy.

A criticism of all special programmes is that the spending is merely a form of back-door reflation and the money would be better spent on conventional reflation measures such as tax cuts. But the Manpower Services Commission stoutly maintains that special programmes, apart from directing help at the most vulnerable groups, ensure that the maximum number of jobs are created for the cash available, thus avoiding dissipation into imports or capital-intensive projects.

It is true that employment measures are highly efficient at converting cash into jobs — but most of these jobs are only temporary and do little to ameliorate the appalling problems which sky-high unemployment levels bring in their wake.

But if the Government continues to insist that it cannot expand the economy and hence cannot bring unemployment down, special programmes are all there is and it will be up to the authorities to try to ensure that they offer the best possible deal to those who must rely on them. They ought to remember that unemployment does not stop hurting when the youngsters come of age.

Frances Williams

The Government's Special Employment and Training Measures

	No. of people covered at		Cost, £m	
	end May, 1981	end May, 1980	1981-82	1980-81
Temporary Short Time Working Compensation Scheme	687,600	111,000	464	415
Job Release Scheme	54,800	66,100	129	138
Youth Opportunities Programme	155,000	80,000	320	209
Community Industry	6,500	6,100	22	19
Community Enterprise Programme (replacing Special Temporary Employment Programme)	14,500	10,000	95	46
Careers service	na	na	6	4
Training for Skills Programme	28,800	12,700	300	300

na = not applicable. * end April.
YOP provides temporary employment for long-term unemployed adults on community projects.
 TSWCS provides temporary employment for long-term unemployed adults on community projects.
 CEP provides temporary employment for long-term unemployed adults on community projects.
 TSP provides temporary employment for long-term unemployed adults on community projects.
 Source: Department of Employment.

America on the brink of recession

Washington
 It is too early to say with statistical certainty that the American economy has moved into a recession, but it does now seem irrefragable that economic activity has slumped to a snail's pace.

The composite index of leading economic indicators, which is a useful guide to trends, fell 1.8 per cent in June, signalling an economic slowdown for at least the next few months. As Chase Econometrics associates' notes recently: "There appears to be no major source of strength for the third quarter."

Economists differ sharply on how long the slump will last and over the amount of growth that will be achieved in 1982. The most optimistic projections are likely to be those announced by the White House tomorrow when the Reagan Administration presents its mid-year forecasts. These may well suggest that greater business

and consumer confidence, resulting from the President's tax-cutting strategies, will secure more than 5 per cent real economic growth next year.

Why is the American economy slowing down and where is it heading?

Tighter money policies and higher interest rates, have been taking their toll. They have crippled the construction industry, damaged the export sector, dented consumer spending and made business investors cautious.

Real gross national product rose at an annual rate of 8.4 per cent in the first quarter of the year but this was largely due to a strong growth in January. Federal Reserve Board figures show barely any change in the levels of industrial capacity in the past five months and hardly any increase in industrial output in the last four months.

Both sets of statistics would have been negative in the last couple of months had it not been for a quite high level of car production, which kept the lowest monthly rate in Detroit. The car makers are now paying for that miscalculation. Car sales in June at an annual rate of 7.8 million, pointed out one of the difficulties faced by the economy. Because the price of coals fluctuates so widely on the world markets, the natives would sooner sell it locally for ready cash.

Outside the market there is a huge, colourful, wooden chart, listing the targets for coals, coals and taro, the Samoan potato, and a wide range of goods in the first quarter. It does not make encouraging reading.

I said it looked as if the government was going to fall short by a large margin. "The 13-week public servant strike (which has just ended) did not help," Alavao said, and he loyalty defended the efforts of the government by saying: "Our country is one of the least developed in the world, but we are not bankrupt and we pay our debts."

What Samoa needed, he said, was tractors and heavy machinery to build roads to make the great plantations accessible. The wide range of unneeded goods in the shops in Apia suggests, however, that a lot of money is wasted on goods which the country does not

most every statistical measure of its health has shown a deterioration in recent months. New housing starts, for example, were running at an annual rate of 1.7 million in January and at only 1.15 million in May. "There is little doubt that the high cost of housing relative to income and high interest rates," says a severely dampening demand," notes a new report by the economists at the Continental Bank.

In the last year real disposable income has fallen by 2 per cent. Savings rates have also fallen to the levels that have tended in the past to trigger borrowing caution.

These factors — and high borrowing costs have produced a sharp decline in the Consumer credit growth rate, with a rise of only \$1.35bn in May after an increase in April of \$2.33bn. Consumer spending is undoubtedly slowing.

The global slump and the strong dollar are making themselves felt in the export sector. American exports were down by 4.8 per cent in May and 7.5 per cent in April. American goods prove to be more resilient than other countries at times of international economic weakness, in part because of the sharp decline in the value of the dollar in terms of other currencies.

For example, Argus research in New York concluded in a recent study that the big

American pharmaceutical companies, which derive more than 40 per cent of their earnings from overseas operations, may see their total 1981 profits grow by only 8 to 9 per cent rather than by the 13-14 per cent predicted early this year.

The reason is the decline of foreign currencies in terms of the dollar. Many computer and high technology companies will also suffer for the same reason. It is hardly surprising that business spending on plant and equipment is now showing signs of slowing as consumer demand falls. Foreign pressures rise, public sector spending weakens and interest rates remain high.

Each of these factors reinforces the others and adds to the downward trend in the economy.

Some preliminary statistics from the Department of Commerce suggest that real GNP in the second quarter was flat. The latest D. Edie and Company forecasting group expects the final data to show a 1.6 per cent real decline in GNP for the second quarter and a 1 per cent fall for the third quarter.

Guaranty economists suggest that the rate in the present quarter will be 2.2 per cent.

What happens in the fourth quarter and on into 1982 is very much a guessing game, especially as congress has yet to vote on tax cuts.

But more than 70 per cent of 1,500 chief executives recently surveyed by the private Conference Board Research Group of New York said that they will not be stepping up their plant and equipment spending plans.

for 1981-82 even if Congress cuts business taxes.

Merrill Lynch Economics suggests that "business spending for plant and equipment will not show any significant increase until the second quarter of 1982".

It is, however, quite probable that business spending will bounce back after continuing to show a moderate cut in income tax is likely to take effect on October 1 and the softness of the economy in coming months may help to bring interest rates down.

The tax cuts may modestly revive the economy in the final quarter, as may somewhat lower interest rates, but it is difficult to share the White House's confidence about strong growth in 1982.

Both money and fiscal policies will still be firmly aimed at curbing inflation. These policies are bound to force rate rises and after the shocks and economic problems of recent years it seems difficult to believe that a short period of single figure inflation is all that is needed to bring rates and inflation down to levels which will boost confidence so rapidly that business investment spending builds up significantly early next year to secure 5 per cent real growth.

Frank Vogl

Business Diary: Carrying pineapples to Samoa

Apia, Western Samoa
 "Where the hell is Samoa?" asks a T-shirt popular here in the streets of the capital.

The short answer is: "In central Polynesia, about 1,500 miles north of New Zealand and 2,300 south of Hawaii."

There is a longer answer, one that is still being worked out. The T-shirts have something to do with it, a product of a modern merchandising in a town redolent of a more spacious age of commerce when, a century ago, tall-masted schooners would have here to trade cloth and iron goods for coconuts and coals.

Today it is only 20 minutes by air to the island of Tutuila and the bright modern shops of Pago Pago (pronounced Pang-Pang), the capital of American Samoa.

It's not quite that modern or bright, despite the T-shirts, on Opuhu, where Apia stands, and on Savai'i, the two main islands of Western Samoa, for 19 years politically independent (it was formally administered by New Zealand). But how long?

But how long? How long to some a distasteful commercialism is another question being asked here.

There is still a certain missionary zeal about the western business community here — shrewd businessmen and businesswomen, with names like Nelson, Carruthers, Yandall, Mackenzie, Bentley and Burns Philp. Entrepre-

neurs, they feel, are just waiting for "their" Samoa to become better known before the country's two most famous names are exploited.

One of these is John Williams, the Welsh missionary, who came here in 1830 and whose witness produced such a harvest of Christians and the other is, teller of tales Robert Louis Stevenson, who put Samoa on tourists' as well as traders' itineraries.

"But it will come. It can't be stopped," says a local businessman, Warner (known to all as "Jack Warner"), general manager of Armstrong and Springhall, suppliers of business equipment and honorary British representative. I found him compiling a list of the British community who would attend a cocktail party thrown by the British High Commissioner, New Zealand at the celebrated Aggie Grey's Hotel.

Warner, as a businessman, recognises the lucrative opportunities ahead and is torn between his commercial sense and apprehension about the kind of activity which are to come. He said that the government was thinking of building a cable car to the top of Mount Vaea, where RLS — who died in December, 1894 aged only 45 — is buried in a simple tomb.

The Legislative Assembly also plans to have a restaurant there with a souvenir shop. To some this is desecration in this paradise of trees, streams,



waterfalls and beautiful flowers.

The name Vailima, meaning five waters, will always be associated with RLS's famous Vailima Letters. This name has already been appropriated for a local beer (as well as for tonics, soft drinks and T-shirts).

But the crasser commercialism is yet to begin. How long before there are effigies of John Williams, plaster busts of Stevenson, cigarette boxes made in the shape of his home and paperweights in the shape of his tomb?

Some modern buildings are going up in Apia, but many of the old white-painted wooden



buildings with their balconies and verandahs remain. The most expensive and imaginative building, however, will be the new Bahai temple in the hills of Tiapapa.

The temple will cost nearly £2m, take two and a half years to build, will be 85 feet to the top of its dome, seat 500 people and be the mother temple of this faith in the Pacific.

The engineers are Flint and Neill of London, the architect is Eusman Amanet of London and the main contractor Mainzeal of New Zealand.

Samoa has a young population, 60 per cent of its people being under 20. Wages are

pitifully low and there is little incentive for the people — called the Irish of the Pacific because they are so political — to work hard when they can get most of what they need to live from the trees and the sea.

Apelin Alavao, chief information officer at the office of the prime minister, Tupuola Efi, pointed out one of the difficulties faced by the economy. Because the price of coals fluctuates so widely on the world markets, the natives would sooner sell it locally for ready cash.

Outside the market there is a huge, colourful, wooden chart, listing the targets for coals, coals and taro, the Samoan potato, and a wide range of goods in the first quarter. It does not make encouraging reading.

I said it looked as if the government was going to fall short by a large margin. "The 13-week public servant strike (which has just ended) did not help," Alavao said, and he loyalty defended the efforts of the government by saying: "Our country is one of the least developed in the world, but we are not bankrupt and we pay our debts."

What Samoa needed, he said, was tractors and heavy machinery to build roads to make the great plantations accessible. The wide range of unneeded goods in the shops in Apia suggests, however, that a lot of money is wasted on goods which the country does not

need. It reaches the absurd when luscious, fresh pineapples are available locally, yet the shops sell dried pineapple chutneys from abroad.

Samoa can eventually become an important exporter to world markets is suggested by the presence of the Japanese, who are building a big fishing centre here, and who provide about 1 in 10 of the vehicles on the island.

China is represented by an ambassador and, over Shanghai, green tea, Gu Si Son, the atache, told me that though there is no direct trade at present, there are many Chinese in the shops brought in by local traders and China is interested in Samoan timber.

Samoa wants chiefly to reduce its trade deficit and it will be keen to offset its plan. Grants, soft loans and remittances from emigrants have helped to sustain the economy, but the country must export more if its coals, coals and taro, develop its manufacturing industries of timber milling, brewing, cigarette manufacture and food processing and increase the birth occupancy for foreign ships from the present 55 per cent.

If it can do this the country will be making a start on the road to economic recovery, and will be able to offer its people by the time the next big occasion in its calendar comes around — the South Pacific Games in 1983.

Geoffrey Watkins

SPECIAL REPORTS

put situations and subjects of today into

PEASOPESITVE

Cakebread Robey & Co. Ltd.

Suppliers to the Building Industry

Mr I. C. Robey reported to the AGM on 13th July, 1981

- ★ DISTRIBUTABLE PROFIT UP 48%
- ★ DIVIDEND UP 13%
- ★ POSITIVE CASH FLOW

Sales for the current year are not buoyant and the outlook is very uncertain. Distributable profit is unlikely to reach 1980 levels.

Copies of accounts may be obtained from:

Company Secretary,
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PERSONAL COLUMNS

ALSO ON PAGE 23

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S HOME

Our children are precious. We know that every child has a special problem needing a special solution. The National Children's Home is a special place where children can find a home and a future. We are looking for children who are between 10 and 15 years old, who are of any race or religion, and who are in need of a permanent home. If you are interested in helping a child, please contact us at 01-226 2000.

WE'RE WORLD LEADERS IN CANCER RESEARCH

Help us make the breakthrough in cancer research. The Cancer Research Campaign is the largest charity in the world dedicated to the fight against cancer. We are looking for people who are interested in helping us to find a cure for cancer. If you are interested, please contact us at 01-584 5515.

RECEIVER OF A WILL, PLEASE

Mr. J. H. Smith, of 123 High Street, London, has died. His will has been proved by the court. The executor of the will is Mr. J. H. Smith. If you are interested in the will, please contact us at 01-226 2000.

ROYAL WEDDING

The Royal Wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana will take place on Saturday, July 10, 1981, at St. Mark's Church, Brompton, London. The ceremony will be broadcast on television and radio.

DAVID HOCKNEY'S ARTWORK

David Hockney's artwork is on display at the Tate Gallery, London. The exhibition is open from July 14 to August 1, 1981. Tickets are available at 01-226 2000.

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